

Walsall & Willenhall CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 23, 2017

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A SNAPSHOT OF TOWN'S PAST GOES ON DISPLAY AT GALLERY



Walking The Fair, 1996, by Anthony J Sawbridge, is among the images on show in Scenes of Walsall

A STUNNING collection of paintings and photographs showing the evolution of Walsall over the last 125 years has gone on display at the town centre's New Art Gallery.

The Scenes of Walsall exhibition opened at the weekend, with pieces ranging from a lithograph of the town's High Street in 1845 to contemporary photography on display.

The gallery also wants the public to contribute to the collection at the gallery, which was recently saved from the axe by Walsall Council under budget plan changes.

New Art Gallery spokesman Chris Wilkinson said: "Many scenes of Walsall have been collected since the establishment of Walsall's public art collection in 1892.

"In this exhibition, to help celebrate the

Permanent Collection's 125th birthday, a range of these are on display, from a lithograph of Walsall High Street in 1845 to contemporary photography.

"We would love local families to participate by adding their memories of these places to the display and by creating their own Scenes of Walsall to be added to a virtual online exhibition.

"We have worked closely with local Community Interest Company Mindful Gifts, based in Darlaston, on creating an immersive and interactive space, with objects chosen to bring the works of art to life.

"The New Art Gallery Walsall is proud to be a Dementia Friendly space, and we especially welcome those with memory loss and

their carers to this exhibition and its related events programme."

The exhibition was opened by Kath Phillips, the Mayor of Walsall, with a vintage tea party, music and games providing extra entertainment. It will be open until July.

Last month the gallery welcomed the latest exhibition by famous Walsall born artist Idris Khan. A World Within put together a collection of his work over the last 12 years drawing on classical music, the history of art, literature, philosophy and also religion.

The future of the New Art Gallery is to be saved by the private sector, with Walsall Council looking at selling naming rights and advertising space – although the name of the gallery is to remain the same.

DRIVING

Roses to ring in safety reminder

WALSALL Council has launched a campaign to remind young drivers of the potentially fatal consequences of poor driving.

"For My Girlfriend" is a Black Country campaign which aims to bring home the terrible consequences for drivers and passengers when things go wrong.

It was launched in Walsall on Valentine's Day with 179 red roses put on display at colleges in the borough to represent each person, aged between 17 and 24, who has been killed or seriously injured on roads in the West Midlands in the last 12 months.

A spokesman for the council added: "We hope the visual impact of the display of roses captured the attention of students and encouraged discussion."

FUNDRAISING

Lifesaving machine is installed at pub

A LIFESAVING defibrillator has been installed at an Aldridge pub after successful fundraising by a local club.

Aldridge Lions raised the cash for the device at The Crown. The £1,650 machine gives a high-energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone in cardiac arrest.

Mike Barker, aged 75, has been membership chairman of Aldridge Lions for 28 years and was a charter member. He said: "It's so important as it's a potential lifesaver."

HOSPITAL

Work to start on £10m care unit

WORK on a £10.6 million care unit at Walsall Manor Hospital will start in May.

Funding has now been released so that the Integrated Critical Care Unit can be built at the hospital, with bosses hoping that its introduction can help attract and retain specialist staff, as well as pushing it out of special measures.

The new unit will bring together the Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU) and the High Dependency Unit (HDU) within the former West Wing main entrance.

It will create an 18-bed unit, which is an increase of five beds, and completion is scheduled for winter 2018.

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READY TO POST MUSICAL NOTES



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200,000 visits and £640k boost in just six months

HEALTHY CASH AID AT CENTRES

TWO new fitness centres built in Walsall have raked in more than £640,000 and been visited more than 200,000 times in just six months, figures have revealed.

Bloxwich and Oak Park Living Centres were opened on August 9, 2016, in a multi-million pound project to increase exercise in the borough, which is blighted by obesity and health issues. A review into the first six months of the two centres reveals that Bloxwich Leisure Centre has brought in £246,552 over this period, while Oak Park Leisure Centre has brought in £393,687.

At the same time, attendances at Oak Park have totalled 134,973, compared with 106,515 in Bloxwich.

Council bosses have said the figures indicate a 'strong start' for the two centres.

But they added that this success at the centres had not affected figures for Darlaston Swimming Pool and Walsall Gala Baths, which was a concern prior to their opening.

The new multi-million pound centres each include a 25-metre swimming pool, teaching pool, six court sports hall, dance studio cafe and state-of-the-art station fitness suites in time for their opening to the public.

Welcomed

The visitor numbers have been welcomed by Bloxwich West ward councillor Bradley Allen.

Councillor Allen is Walsall's youngest-ever councillor, having been voted in last year, aged 19.

He said: "I think the visitors numbers are fantastic. I think it is great for people to have such a state-of-the-art facility in Bloxwich.

"We all know the facilities were not

Report by Alex Ross

there previously, and something like this was much needed. I'm overwhelmed by the numbers, though."

He added: "Having such a facility on your doorstep has made it even easier for people to get involved in fitness as we tackle obesity in the borough."

Wellbeing

The centres were funded through the council's £24.3 million Active Living Centres initiative.

The project received a £2m grant from Sport England's facilities award scheme to support Walsall Council's aspiration to improve Walsall residents' overall health and well-being.

Last year it was revealed that more than two in three people in Walsall are obese or overweight.

A total of 68.9 per cent of the borough's population carry excess weight according to Public Health England.

The figures also revealed that 30 per cent of adult and 24 per cent of children in the borough are obese.



Handover of the New Bloxwich Leisure centre before the grand opening in August



Proving a great success – the Oak Park Active Living centre, Walsall Wood



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Trauma of teenage attack victim Emily



Attack victim Emily O'Reilly

A 'CONFIDENT' and bubbly' teenager has been left too upset to leave the house after being beaten up and robbed in Darlaston.

Sixteen-year-old Emily O'Reilly, from Walsall, was walking to a friend's house when she was attacked from behind and knocked to the floor.

Emily's mother Tanya O'Reilly told how her daughter, who has Asperger's, had her mobile phone, a Pandora bracelet and a ring stolen in the attack.

She said: "She was out with friends as teenagers do and walking along to

one of her friend's houses. As she was walking someone came up behind her and grabbed her by her hair and started hitting her.

"At some point during it, Emily went down to the floor. She was robbed as well, they took her mobile phone which was tucked into her trousers."

The 36-year-old mother said: "How can a human being do this to another human being? I can't believe the level of violence. Before the attack she was really confident and bubbly and now she won't even want to go out the house.

"Her face is still severely bruised, her right side of her lip is slightly down and her eye is packed with blood. She's a bright student and is studying health and social care at Walsall College. They've given her some time off college due to the trauma that she's been through."

A 16-year-old girl has been charged with robbery and two counts of criminal damage and appeared at Wolverhampton Youth Court last week. The case was adjourned and she was granted bail to reappear at the same court on March 31.

Woman, 84, left injured in robbery for just £40

A CONMAN posing as a workman left a vulnerable Walsall pensioner injured on the floor as he rooted through her bedroom – for just £40.

Career thief Stuart Harrison had demanded cash from the 84-year-old saying he had cleaned her gutters.

When he called at her house in, where she lived alone, he pushed past the frail victim causing her to fall while he searched for money to feed his heroin habit.

The elderly lady was left blaming herself for being fooled by Harrison, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Harrison, aged 35, of West Bromwich, first called at her home three days earlier when he demanded the cash for the guttering work. The woman decided to pay him and as she went to get money, fell.

Judge Simon Ward said he took advantage of her frailty and knew he would not face much resistance when he returned to her house on December 15.

Harrison again said he needed paying for work he had done and when she left him on the doorstep to get money pushed past her and headed upstairs. He took £40 from her bag before fleeing.

In a statement the woman, who suffered an injury to her backside, said she was now nervous to answer her door.

Mr Howard Searles, prosecuting, said: "When it happened she was upset and crying. She said she was nervous to answer her door to strangers and blames herself for leaving her door open in the first place. "She sums up what happened by saying things like this change you forever."

Harrison, of Beaconview Road, was jailed for five years and four months after admitting robbery.

Judge Ward told him: "For most of your adult life you have been stealing things from people and spending money on drugs.

"You cleaned out the gutters on her house. She hadn't asked you to do that but when you asked her to pay she obliged and did so. "You pushed her over, went upstairs and stole money from her."

Appearing in court via videolink, Harrison read out a letter addressed to his victim. He said: "I am utterly ashamed and truly sorry for the crime I have committed. I know I have caused you pain and heartache but am truly sorry."

Voicing support for singer Jason



TV Voice hopeful Jason Jones from Brownhills singing at The Kingfisher Club in Lichfield

HE has wowed millions of TV viewers and the likes of Sir Tom Jones and will.i.am with his voice, but Jason Jones was delighted to come back to his roots for a local gig.

The Voice star, an RAC worker from Brownhills, returned to the Kingfisher Club in Lichfield over the weekend where he was a regular hit before finding the limelight.

The 31-year-old's rendition of Pillow Talk by Zayn sparked rave reviews from judges Sir Tom, Jennifer Hudson, will.i.am and Gavin

Rossdale on the TV talent show, with the singer set to return to screens on Sunday.

James Porter, chairman of the Kingfisher Club, said that fame hasn't changed the humble vocalist. He said: "I am always happy to see Jason, we have had him here plenty of times in the past.

"He told me that it is a bit of a shock to him but he is loving it, it is a great opportunity for it and he deserves the success he is getting."

Jason's new-found fame brought

a much bigger audience through the Kingfisher doors than ever before. Mr Porter said it was the biggest crowd the venue had seen for live music in 10 years.

He said: "It was a wonderful show, a wonderful evening and I wish Jason all the best."

Meanwhile, Sir Tom Jones has been announced as the final performer at the Forest Live gigs on Cannock Chase. He will appear on July 9 with tickets on sale from tomorrow (Friday) at 9am.

Rod in the drain leads to blockage of system

SEVERN Trent Water discovered the cause of a blocked sewer in Bloxwich – a fishing rod.

The company was called by homeowners keen to the get to the bottom of the cause of the overflowing drains.

Severn Trent officials said that in the last year it had been called out to nearly 50,000 blockages in the region, of which around three quarters were caused by people misusing the sewer system.

The problem is unnecessarily costing Severn Trent millions of pounds per year clearing sanitary products such as nappies, wipes – and in this case fishing rods from its network.

Caitlin Mayes, senior network technician for Severn Trent, said: "I know that 'rodding drains' is a common thing, but we wouldn't advise this. Someone has clearly tried to clear a blockage, probably caused by fat and grease. But they decided to use a fishing rod, which then got stuck. The sewers got completely blocked and overflowed into the local area.

"This is just one example of amazing things we find blocking the sewers.

"Having sewage flooding around your home due to sewers being blocked is one of the most horrible things that can happen, and it's entirely preventable.

"These blockages, if not identified and cleared can lead to sewers backing up and overflowing into people's homes and gardens.

"We are spending millions of pounds every year sending teams into sewers to dig out these blockages."

Home fire cause remains mystery

TEN firefighters tackled a blaze at a house in Walsall.

Two crews from Bloxwich and Aldridge were sent to the terraced house on the Coalpool estate last Friday (February 17).

West Midlands Fire Service said the incident was reported at 8.50am and both crews had left the scene about an hour and a later.

The cause of the blaze, which started in the kitchen, is not yet known.

A fire service spokesman said: "We received a 999 call at 8.50am reporting a house fire and sent two fire engines.

"Firefighters were breathing apparatus and a hose reel jet to extinguish the blaze.

"The last fire crew left the scene at around 10.25am."

New beer festival on way for town

A NEW Willenhall Beer Festival is being held in April.

The 442 Bar and Grill at Aspray Arena, Noose Lane, is hosting the event from April 21 to 23.

There will be free entry with live music on the Saturday and Sunday.

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Shop closed indefinitely over rodent infestation

A SUPERMARKET which was shut down after health chiefs uncovered a rodent infestation poses an 'imminent risk to public health' and will stay closed indefinitely, a court has ruled.

FB Supermarket in Milton Street, Palfrey, was closed by environmental health officers last Tuesday after an inspection revealed a mouse and rat infestation.

An emergency prohibition order to close the shop until conditions are acceptable for reopening was passed by magistrates on Thursday.

It has a shop area and a raw meat counter. Walsall Council environmental health officer Anthony Stewart said a search had found rodent droppings in the shop.

Magistrates agreed to close the premises indefinitely at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on Thursday.

A resident living near the shop said he believed there were issues with a number of shops in the Palfrey area and praised the council for looking out for the safety of the community.

Mr Mukesh Patel, who lives on the same street as the shop, said: "In my opinion, there are a lot of shops in our area which fall below the standard we expect."

"There is a lot of litter left in the streets from shops and I think it should be looked into more."

"I think that the council have done the right thing if they believe there are any concerns about the shop, it should be looked into in the interests of community safety."

Stroke services on the agenda

THE latest in a series of events designed to discuss big issues relating to healthcare will focus on stroke services.

The NHS Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group has been organising events under the banner of 'The Big Conversation' in order to give residents a chance to have their say on services across the borough.

The previous event focused on GP and community services, with the next on March 9 focusing on urgent care and stroke services.

It will be held at Moxley People's Centre in Wednesbury from 1pm to 4pm. To book your place for this free event or for more information visit www.walsallccg.nhs.uk/ or call 01922 603062.

£250,000 bingo boost for town

BINGO fans in Bilston are being given the chance to take part in a new live game just launched. Players at Mecca Bilston can play the new National Bingo Game for the chance to win a share of a £250,000 pot.

Row brews over noise from PA system

A COUNCILLOR has been accused of creating a storm in a tea cup over a 'too loud' PA system at a petrol station.

The Texaco/Nisa Local on Lichfield Road, New Invention, installed the system to speak directly to customers, giving instructions and addressing those who look like they may be trying to leave without paying.

But Councillor Ian Shires questioned the volume of the system, saying it left the area sounding more like a 'factory estate' than a residential area.

In reply, petrol station owner

Shailesh Parekh said: "It is yet again a storm brewed up in a teacup by Ian Shires. Over the past few months many of my fellow service station operators have got exasperated by the relentless theft of fuel."

"So it was decided that we ask people who we couldn't identify or know to pay first. The only way to communicate this is via the tannoy."

"It never crossed my mind that it would become an issue. Ian Shires made it his business to go and complain to every agency he could think of for the scourge of our PA system."

"We were visited by a lady from

pollution and environmental control who concluded that our tannoy was not as loud as was made out. He also complained to the police who very dutifully turned up to interrogate us about this PA system, the same police force that no longer treats the theft of fuel as a crime."

"The problem of course is that the home office has downgraded the seriousness of this crime but it nevertheless added further to my indignation."

"I have turned a derelict piece of land into a thriving successful business that employs 12 local people and provides business facilities to a dozen

more. As I see it I have made a positive difference to the residents of New Invention."

Following a number of problems reported to him by residents, Councillor Shires organised for Walsall Council's environmental enforcement team to visit the site.

The 24-hour garage only uses its PA system to speak to customers from inside the shop. One example is if someone is filling up a jerry can but the cashier cannot see it.

Councillor Ian Shires said: "People don't complain for the sake of it. All residents want is their peace back."

Derelict pub must be demolished, court rules

THE owner of a derelict pub in Darlaston which has been a magnet for vandals must demolish it by early next month, a court has ruled.

A senior firefighter had warned that there were so many calls to put out fires at The Boat pub, in Bentley Road South, that lives were being put at risk.

Owner Chinder Pal Singh, of Little Aston Park Road, Little Aston appeared at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court on Thursday to appeal a legal notice served to him by Walsall Council last year to clear the pub site.

But magistrates dismissed his appeal because Mr Singh had made his application a day too late last December.

Councillors and residents as well as the fire service have all called for the site to be bulldozed because of the problems there. The former award-winning pub closed in 2006.

Walsall Council wrote to Mr Singh last November 7 telling him he had a month – until December 8 – to write back to appeal the legal notice. He wrote back on December 9.

Darlaston South councillor Paul Bott said he was relieved action had been ordered.

He said: "It's a blight on the area. If they're going to move forward on that bit, it needs to go. The whole area needs regenerating and that's starting to happen with the Darlaston regeneration."

Walsall council's deputy leader and portfolio holder for regeneration, Councillor Lee Jeavons, said of the latest court action: "The owner has until March 9 to comply with the requirements of the Section 215 notice. The notice requires the demolition of the building and clearance of the site."

"The council will review the condition of the site after March 9."

Mr Singh claimed in court the council 'had a vendetta' against him and that in his 43 years of being a businessman in the town, he had never been subject to any order before.

"I run my business clearly, I run it rationally. In my 40-year history I have never been to court," he said.

"I don't want to cause any damage to Walsall. I have requested a meeting with the chief executive because there is certain evidence that I have never had."

Watch commander Andy Minor previously stated: "While we are dealing with incidents at the site we can't respond to other call-outs. It is putting lives in danger."

Group's blooming heart of the matter



Members of Aldridge community groups, charity groups and local businesses who will be helping out

A COMMUNITY group has been chosen to represent the Midlands in the race for a major gardening gong.

Aldridge In Bloom will represent the Heart of England in the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Britain in Bloom UK Finals 2017. It will be joined by another 79 Britain in Bloom finalists looking to be crowned one of the cleanest and green-fingered places in the country.

The group's 100 volunteers will grow thousands of bedding plants and start six new large planters in the village's centre this year in preparation for the competition.

Member Mike Soles said: "We are over the moon to be finalists for the third time, we can't believe our luck. We are already well into the planning stages for this year's entry working with over 100 volunteers to make our dreams and projects a reality."

"We hope the community enjoys our efforts as much as we enjoy doing them."

Britain in Bloom judges will tour Aldridge in August in an effort to be crowned winners at the competition's 53rd awards in Llandudno, North Wales, in October.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick said: "I am absolutely delighted that Aldridge is not just representing Walsall but the Heart of England."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fundraiser marks musician's 70th

MUSICIAN Peter Morris has a present in store for music lovers in honour of his 70th birthday this weekend.

The Walsall town hall organist was asked by his family what he would like for his birthday, and the result is a fundraising concert organised by his wife Jane Eminson and daughter Zoe.

It takes place at St Peter's Collegiate Church on Saturday, from 7.30pm and features a 50-strong orchestra and a large choir.

Visitors are asked to contribute towards the historic 1860 organ in St Peter's Church.

Support centre bid at old offices

A CENTRE to support people living with disabilities could be introduced in Walsall if plans are approved.

The community support centre, in Willenhall Road, Darlaston, would be created at an existing vacant property if Walsall Council gives the go-ahead. It is understood to have previously been used as an office and canteen and originally constructed in the Victorian era as a school.

The proposed centre will operate as a day respite facility for disabled people. A ramped entrance would be provided at the rear for disabled visitors.

Mental health is in focus at forum

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will celebrate International Happiness Day on March 16.

The trust is holding a Mental Health Forum focusing on maintaining mental health and wellbeing.

It will be held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall in Bank Street, between 11am and 1pm.

A free lunch will be provided. Booking is required at communication@dwmm.nhs.uk, or call 01384 325015.

Brawl at McDonald's sees teenager hurt

A BRAWL broke out between teenagers at a McDonald's restaurant in Willenhall.

The violence caused panic on social media after a group of teenagers began fighting at the restaurant in Crescent Road last Thursday (February 16).

A 16-year-old boy was taken to hospital after suffering injuries to his hand. Police were called at around 6pm. No arrests have been made and officers are looking at CCTV footage of the incident.

Brownies' bake-off

BROWNIES took part in a baking challenge, as part of a national campaign.

Streets Brownies made green hearts on February 15 for places, people and lives that could be lost to climate change for the Show The Love campaign.

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COUNTY NEWS

Midlanders in the dark over credit

MORE than half of people living in the Midlands think that living with someone with bad debts will affect their own credit score.

Credit information provider Equifax's research has revealed common consumer misconceptions about credit information.

Nationally 52 per cent of respondents to the survey amongst consumers who have accessed their Equifax Credit Report believed their credit score would be affected if they live with someone who has debts.

In the Midlands it was 57 per cent.

Thefts warning with festivals

POLICE have issued a warning for Hindus to keep their gold secure over two upcoming festivals.

Two festivals – Maha Shivaratri, tomorrow, Friday and Holi on March 12 – traditionally see Indian Hindus wear lots of gold to celebrate them with.

In previous years this has led to an increase in burglaries as valuables like gold are then left unsecured or on display. Police said people should keep their valuables in a home safe, to photograph them to assist in identification operations and ensuring valuables are not left in plain view.

Crews' cannabis callouts total 60

FIREFIGHTERS in the West Midlands were called to 60 blazes involving cannabis last year, including cases where a fire had been started to cover the smell of the drug and various 'factories' where it was being grown.

The figures come just days after a major house blaze at a cannabis factory in Wolverhampton and in 2016, there were similar fires all over the region. Fires involving cannabis factories can spread quickly due to unsafe nature of the operations put together.

Talks over free toll during emergencies

THE West Midlands Combined Authority has confirmed it is in talks with the Government to give the region powers over the M6 Toll.

Bosses want control over removing the toll when major accidents occur on other major local routes. Currently the route's operators have the powers to lift the toll in times of emergency.

WMCA's transport chief Councillor Roger Lawrence said: "We want to be able to push the button to switch to free mode in the event of problems."

BT traineeships offer

BT is offering seven-week traineeships for 30 young people, aged 16 to 24. They are at Providence Place, West Bromwich, from March 14, and from May 9 at Goodall Street, Walsall. Visit: <http://www.btplc.com/Careercentre/WorkReady/ApplyforaBTtraineeship/index.htm>

Rise of £12k in house prices over year

HOUSE prices in the West Midlands ended last year around £12,000 higher on average than when the year started, according to an official report.

The typical property value across the region was £181,000, said the report, produced jointly by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) with other bodies. Across the wider UK house price growth was strongest in Eng-

land, where prices increased by 7.7 per cent over the year to December, taking the average price to £236,000.

Wales saw house prices increase by 4.7 per cent over the year to stand at £148,000. In Scotland, the average price increased by 3.5 per cent to £142,000, while in Northern Ireland the average price was £125,000, an increase of 5.7 per cent.

House prices across the UK as a

whole increased by 7.2 per cent in the year to December, accelerating from a 6.1 per cent rise recorded in the year to November

In Wolverhampton prices rose 7.4 per cent to £135,018 on average, while in Walsall they were up 8.2 per cent to £149,268. In Dudley a 5.1 per cent rise over the year took prices to £155,824 while in Sandwell they were up just 4.3 per cent to £130,004.

In Staffordshire house prices were up 5.7 per cent on to an average of £177,268, while in Stafford they were up four per cent to £191,447. In Cannock Chase prices rose 5.7 per cent to £150,805.

Richard Snook, a senior economist at PwC, said: "The good news for prospective future buyers is that we do expect a gradual slowdown in house price inflation in 2017."

A third shooting sparks terror in neighbourhood

By Nathan Briant

A BULLET-ridden house is the chilling evidence of the third shooting to hit Palfrey in just four months leaving some neighbours frightened to walk the streets.

The targeted house in Alexandra Road has been left with shattered windows after being shot at in what police say was a deliberate attack.

No-one was hurt in the latest shooting on Sunday February 12 at 6.20pm, which happened just metres from where a man was shot in Farmstead Close on Christmas Day.

He suffered serious injuries and remains in hospital.

That happened just over a month after a man travelling on a bus was shot as he chatted on his mobile phone, in Weston Street, on November 22. He suffered serious head injuries.

Now residents in the area have insisted on a clampdown to the violence after the attack.

Beautiful

One said: "You're frightened to come out of the house." Another, who did not want to be named for fear of repercussions, said: "This used to be such a beautiful area around here. There was none of this."

Another resident said they were getting ready to watch television on Sunday when they heard gunfire.

They said: "I was really on edge. I don't like the curtains pulled but they were pulled on Sunday. I'm frightened to go out. Someone across the road has got children – he's moving."

"He's got children to bring up and he said: 'I can't do that here. I can't let them out of the gate in case, when they're walking back up from the school, they get hurt.' What a shame. What a shame, in this day and age."

DS Paul Cook from West Midlands Police said: "We believe this was a targeted attack. No arrests have been made. We would like anyone with information to come forward and report it via our 101 number quoting crime number 20WS/31118A/17 or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Baby girl thrown from buggy hit by car



Police at the scene outside Darlaston Health Centre where a baby girl was thrown out of her buggy

A BABY girl was thrown out of her buggy as it was hit by a car in Darlaston leaving her with serious injuries.

The four-month-old was in a pushchair that was hit outside Darlaston Health Centre last Thursday at 10am. She was treated for injuries to her face, shoulder and arm before being taken to Walsall Manor with her mother travelling with her. It happened around the crossing on Pinfold Street.

The road was closed for several hours. Ambulance service spokesman Murray MacGregor said: "The four month old girl came out of the pushchair as a result of the collision. She had suffered injuries to both arms and her head. After treatment at the scene, she was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for further assessment."

John Cownley, owner of Cownleys W E barber shop on Pinfold Street, said: "I heard the buggy had taken the most impact. There was one ambulance and five cop cars at the scene. I believe the crash took place more or less on the zebra crossing, which has had accidents before."

Just hours after the incident, a parent launched a petition for a safer crossing on the road. By 5pm, the petition on change.org already had more than 100 supporters. The parent, who wrote under the username Louise R, said: "Something needs to be done to prevent this from happening again."

A Walsall Council spokesman said: "When the outcomes of the police investigation are available, our highway engineers will consider any appropriate actions."

Specialist service faces axe due to its small size

A SERVICE helping Walsall patients with muscle and bone pain is set to be axed because it is 'unsustainable'.

The Rheumatology service, run by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, has been told it may have to close due to its small size, with plans being drawn up to have a joint service across the Black Country.

Health bosses, who have compiled the Black Country's Strategic Transformation Plan, have warned the size of the service, which is made up of two consultants and clinical nurse specialists, means it is difficult to recruit and keep consultant rheumatologists.

The plan has made provisions to recruit three consultants to start later in the year, reducing agency staff spend, however it has reiterated that the service is 'unsustainable'.

The service in Walsall is offered Monday to Friday at the Manor Hospital and the Outpatient and Day Case Centre.

Councillor Ian Robertson, Walsall council's health boss, said he thought the change to a Black Country-led service 'makes sense'. He added: "I think when you have a specialist service it is easier to recruit if you can tell them you will be looking after a series of hospitals rather than just one."

The current service in Walsall offers a range of specialist clinics, including early arthritis, and a range of treatments, including infusions and various injections.

Among the conditions that Walsall's Rheumatology team help to treat is arthritis and back pain.

Unemployment is on rise in borough

THERE has been an increase in the number of people out of work across Walsall. It followed a rise in the number of people unemployed in the West Midlands in the three months to December of 17,000 to 168,000.

Nationally, a record number are in work after another fall in unemployment. More than 31.8 million adults are in a job – 300,000 more than a year ago – after a quarterly rise of 37,000, while unemployment fell 7,000 to under 1.6 million. Wolverhampton saw the biggest rise in claimants of 135 to 6,565, while Walsall had a rise of 10 to 4,830 – 2.9 per cent.

Councillor Mike Bird said: "I hope these figures will be turned around in the coming months thanks to the ongoing investment from Walsall Council and the people of Walsall."

Black Country ales in national festival

SEVERAL Black Country and Staffordshire breweries have had beers chosen for the National Winter Ales Festival this weekend, in Norwich.

More than 250 ales are featured and breweries taking part include Bathams, Bewwulf and Brownhills.

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Mother and son arrested in claims of faking death

A MOTHER and her teenage son from Walsall have been arrested after she allegedly faked her death in a car crash in Zanzibar in a bid to collect a £140,000 pay out.

The 19-year-old is alleged to have presented fake documents claiming his mother had been killed on the island, off the East African coast.

However, after their insurance firm – which has not been named – grew suspicious of the submitted documents, they reportedly refused to pay out and contacted police.

Police confirmed the son has now been arrested, while his 45-year-old mother, who is said to have been living in Canada, was asked to return to the UK. She was detained at Perry Barr Police Station on her return.

A 24-year-old has also been interviewed under caution in connection with the alleged plot. The mother and son have been bailed until April.

The paradise island, which is off the coast of Tanzania, is more than 7,000 miles from the Black Country town.

City of London Police said the case involved an allegedly faked death certificate and road traffic accident reports to claim on the mother's life insurance in May last year.

The force's Insurance Fraud Enforcement Department (IFED) launched an investigation late last year after being tipped by insurers.

The IFED is a specialist police unit dedicated to tackling insurance fraud. It is funded by members of the Association of British Insurers and Lloyd's of London.

Partnership call for volunteers

DUDDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust is offering a volunteering opportunity within its community development worker team.

The team works in a number of different ways to challenge discrimination and stigma, and to promote mental wellbeing. Community development workers act as advocates, signposting service users to relevant agencies, both statutory and voluntary.

The offered role will be based in Dudley and calls for someone who is warm, open, honest and empathetic with experience of community work, event planning and mental health conditions.

For details, visit www.dwmh.nhs.uk or call 01384 366517.

40 heroes make civic award final

MORE than 40 nominations have been submitted for Walsall's local hero awards. Sponsors have chosen the finalists for the 13th annual Mayor's Civic Awards. This year's ceremony is on April 21 at the town hall.

Over-limit woman did tour of car park

A DRIVER found slumped in her vehicle outside a supermarket car park drove round and round the car park with her lights off trying to find the way out, after she was roused by the store manager.

Danielle Georgina Harvey-News, 29, of Bentley Lane, Walsall, was almost three times over the legal drink drive limit when she was found in her car on the Morrisons car park in Welshpool.

Last Tuesday at Welshpool magistrates court she admitted driving when the alcohol level in her body was over the legal limit. She also admitted driving without an MOT certificate and otherwise than in accordance with her licence.

Magistrates, who heard she had been a provisional driver, banned her from driving for two years

and gave her a 12 month community order with 60 hours unpaid work. She was also ordered to pay a total of £170 in costs and victim surcharge.

Mrs Helen Tench, prosecuting said the manager of the store found Harvey-News slumped in the seat of a Fiat Punto at about 10pm on January 28 this year.

He tried to rouse her and called for an ambulance. When Harvey-News came round she started to drive the car round the supermarket car park with her lights off hitting a bollard. She attempted to drive out of the entrance but her path was blocked by the ambulance that had arrived to help her.

A breath test revealed she had 95 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit

is 35. Mr Owain Jones for Harvey-News, said her client was a vulnerable adult who had post traumatic stress and a borderline personality disorder.

"She also has a disassociation problem which means she can black out and forget what she has done. That day she had forgotten to take her medication," he said.

The court was told that Harvey-News had decided to drive back from mid Wales to Walsall after hearing her sister had given birth. "She clipped the kerb in Welshpool and to calm herself down, went to a pub to have one drink. After that she can't remember anything else," Mr Jones said. "She accepts her actions were irresponsible and dangerous and is sorry for the inconvenience caused."

Black bags are left after bigger bin plea snubbed

A DISABLED man claims his council's refusal to give him a bigger bin has left him with rotting rubbish beside his home.

Stephen Long and his partner Jane Taylor moved into their home in Paul's Coppice in Walsall Wood six months ago, but the pair have struggled to throw all their rubbish away in a smaller bin which came with the property.

Both are disabled – with Mr Long using walking sticks to get around and Miss Taylor relying on a wheelchair.

And now black bin bags have begun to pile up after Walsall Council binmen started to refuse to take away the extra rubbish they couldn't fit in their bin, as Mr Long said he had done in the weeks after they moved in.

Mr Long said: "The binman said 'we're not allowed to do it anymore because we are not allowed to take excess rubbish.' 'We phoned and asked whether the council could help us, but they said 'there's nothing else we can do.'"

"I'm not a single person – I'm living with my partner."

Summer

"We have got grandchildren who come round at weekends so there is excess rubbish. And the council is saying they won't give us a bigger bin. There is going to be a nice odour come the summer."

"We cannot afford to pay for a person to take it away for £20, £30, £40. I think it should be the council's job to move it. What are we paying council tax for?"

"If they gave us a bigger bin it would be normal, we would be back to normal."

Walsall Council refused more than 2,500 people's calls for a larger bin ahead of waste collection changes introduced last year. It switched to alternate weekly collections to save around £1 million a year.

Between May and October, 20,916 people applied for a bin bigger than the standard 140 litre one to be used for rubbish, but out of those 2,508 were turned down.

Councillor Chris Jones, portfolio holder for Clean and Green, said: "I'm sorry to hear that this couple are having difficulties – I do wish that they'd approached us for advice. If their health conditions are such that their existing bin provision is inadequate, this is something that we can look into."

The council undertook an advertising campaign in the weeks and months leading up to the changes last October warning people that their rubbish collections would be less frequent.



Stephen Long from Walsall Wood with the rubbish the council is refusing the move from his home

It said the decision to decrease the number of collections was determined by the need to save £85 million over four years.

Walsall residents were asked how to make the savings between October and December 2014. By February 2015 the authority had approved emptying bins fortnightly rather than weekly.

In another consultation, which ran between Au-

gust and September 2015, the council was told people wanted to keep bins as they were.

Grey bins are still used for general waste, green bins for recycling and, between April and October, brown bins are used for garden waste.

For more information on bin collections in Walsall visit: <http://walsallbins.co.uk/changes-to-grey-bin-collections/>

Animals finding police shell-ter

ONE tortoise, a dead pigeon, six pairs of underpants, a urine sample and 14 swords. Just some of the hundreds of items marked as lost and found property by the region's police forces over the past two years.

The forces have revealed the unusual collection of items, which also includes weapons, sports equipment and clothes.

Less surprising than the critters and personal garments which find themselves at police stations, are the most common items in the form of wallets, purses and their contents.

Business focus for youngsters

A NEW youth chamber involving young people influencing the business world has got under way successfully.

The initiative, called Young Chamber, has organised a raft of activities across the year following its first meeting at the Q3 Academy in Great Barr for pupils at Walsall Academy, Windor High School in Halesowen and Highfields School, Wolverhampton.

Now the Chamber is organising a careers speed networking event to raise aspirations and employability skills on Monday, March 27, at the Q3 Academy.

Housing plan set for the go-ahead

PLANS to build hundreds of new homes are set to go ahead in Lichfield after being given the green light by Secretary of State Sajid Javid.

A total of 750 homes will be built alongside a primary school, care village, retail units, a community centre, playing fields and a public open space.

The decision has been made after an appeal by developers IM Land, following the rejection of the plans by Lichfield District Council which took place back in 2014.

Classical concert the ticket for music fans

THE Sinfonia of Birmingham perform in Edgbaston next month. The concert will start with Schoenberg's Chamber Symphony No. 2 and will finish with Schumann's Symphony No. 2.

It will take place at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School, Edgbaston, B15 2UA on March 5 at 7.30pm. Tickets reservations can be made on 0121 472 9585 or at ruddockpac@kes.org.uk

They can also be purchased at tickets.ruddockpac.co.uk/Sales.

Country in the city

A MONTHLY country songwriters' night is being held in Wolverhampton. The group will gather in Bantock House, Finchfield Road, on February 25, from 7pm.

Admission is £5 on door. Further nights take place March 25, April 29, May 28, June 18 and July 29.

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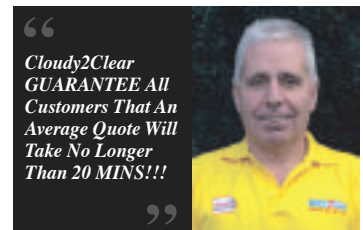
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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Ghosts? No real scary thing is Blair's back

FIGURES revealed under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that over a three-year period West Midlands Police received 15 reports of ghosts, 55 of witches, and two zombies.

My initial reaction was what a waste of valuable police time, probably down to adolescent students with too much time on their hands, or daft drunks and drugies who think they see people coming back from the dead all the time.

THEN I heard that Tony Blair was making a comeback in an attempt to stop Britain from leaving the EU. Suddenly the world seems a much scarier place.

□ □ □

AN official from the local NUT was on local radio recently painting a bleak picture indeed about cutbacks to education budgets in the area.

"We could soon be getting to the point where schools can't afford classroom assistants, and there are no educational psychologists," she said in almost funeral tones.

Maybe I'm out of the loop, but I never even knew there was such a thing as an educational psychologist in your average school. And when I was at school there was no such thing as a classroom assistant. Unless you counted the milk monitor.

Of course, it is always a tragedy when somebody faces losing their job, and the teaching unions are there to represent their members. But trying to paint it as the end of the education system smacks of hyperbole. By the way, hyperbole is like exaggeration. If you went to a school without psychologists or classroom assistants.

□ □ □

NATIONAL Geographic explorer Daniel Raven-Ellison has been on a walk. A rather long walk. Just over 1,047 miles to be precise, around every city and national park in Great Britain. And out of all of these places, where does he like best?

"The wilderness and scenery makes Dudley one of the best places I've been in the UK," he says.

Wilderness? To be honest, I thought they had put a stop to that sort of thing when they closed the old Goldsmith's nightclub back in the 90s.

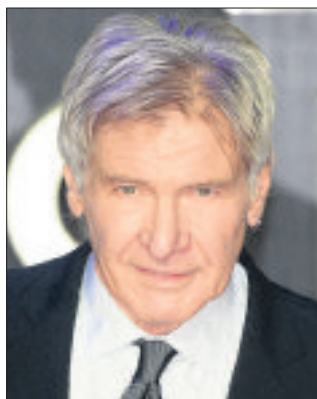
He carried out his research by wandering around with a set of electrodes on his head, which looks like some kind of sci-fi torture device from an episode of The Avengers. He said the brain sensors detected "high levels of interest".

I bet they did. But it's much harder doing your shopping on a Saturday afternoon.

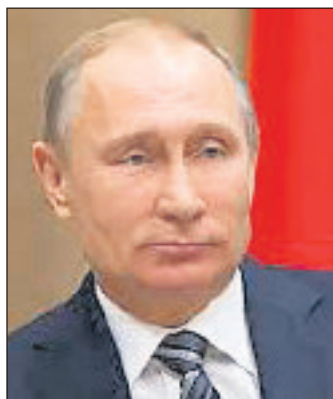
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SPOTTED an intriguing sign directing me towards "adult snacks" at my local supermarket. Can't tell you how disappointed I was when I found they were just fancy crisps.

Audit on ministers' vehicles showed 200 had gone



Pilot Harrison Ford: A near-miss or was it actually a near-hit?



Fake news: Type 'Putin is dead' into Google and you'll get 84,000 responses



Mystery: How does David Davis' text about Dianne Abbott make front page news

Days when limos just went missing

THERE'S a shortage of cars in Ghana. When the new government took office recently, it ordered an audit of all the ministers' limos on the books. About 200 vehicles, including 122 Toyota Land Cruisers, have mysteriously vanished. It is suspected that some have been taken home by members of the former government. Easily done, isn't it? One day you accidentally take home an office ballpoint pen, the next a few paperclips, the next a Land Cruiser. One of the former government's spin-doctors has accused the new administration of "embarrassing the country in the sight of the international community" by highlighting the issue. It's a fine old political tradition. If the news is bad, shoot the messenger.

INCIDENTALLY, if you're sniggering at Ghana's expense, ask yourself how many of Britain's warplanes, tanks, frigates, submarines and destroyers are where they are supposed to be, and fit for action. Borrowing a government-owned limo is a form of theft but having half our military hardware in workshops, dry docks or cannibalised to keep the other half working is a form of treason.

GREAT mysteries of our time. How does David Davis' unflattering text about Dianne Abbott, sent to one of his parliamentary 'friends', miraculously get from the 'friend' to the front pages of the newspapers? Unless, of course, some friends are not friends at all, but complete bounders.

GREAT names demand great dramas. How could Harrison Ford fly his aircraft into John Wayne Airport without something exciting happening? The something in question was one of those incidents we bizarrely call a near-miss, when it is actually a near-hit.

AH, the drama, the glory, the power. The

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



steam locomotive Tornado is pulling trains on the Settle-to-Carlisle line and what a magnificent sight it is. I recall a steam-hauled trip on the Severn Valley Railway some years ago in the company of a bloke who once went to school by train. His memory of the golden age of steam was not so golden. In all the seven years of his secondary education, he never once arrived at school with a clean shirt. So that's drama, glory, power – and smuts.

THE Russian news website Sputnik stands accused of pumping out fake news. But if the Kremlin is dealing in fakery, it is probably as much sinned against as sinning. For example, type 'Putin is dead' into Google and you'll get 84,000 responses.

THE Early Learning Centre stands accused of "stone age" attitudes to gender for a marketing leaflet showing little boys dressed as heroes and little girls as princesses. A campaign called Let Toys Be Toys thunders: "Girls are passive princesses while wise, smart, active boys save the day? Very disappointing." The inconvenient fact, as most of us who have raised daughters will confirm, is that almost before they are out of their own pram, little girls want a mini-pram of their own and a baby doll to go in it. We tried really hard to rear a gender-neutral child but at 18 months, on her first trip to the big toy shop she plunged into the display and returned embracing a Tiny Tears and cooing: "Dolly, dolly, dolly!" in pure joy. It is in their genes.

I AM not alone in being unimpressed with Let

Toys Be Toys. From a cyberstorm of derision, I liked this: "Where can I find a neutral coloured androgenous superperson costume for my non gender-specific child?"

TESS Newall thought her cherished 150-year-old wedding dress had been lost when a dry cleaners in Edinburgh ceased trading. But after her story went viral, a renewed search of the premises found it. Such is the power of the internet. It reminds me of my YouTube item on malt-based food supplements of the 1950s. It went viral.

AN Anglican preacher has been suspended after emailing the pro-EU MP Anna Soubry: "Traitors are long remembered. May you burn in hell, you evil bitch!" To his credit he signed off: "Pastoral Co-ordinator, delivering well-being." Sweet.

AFTER relating some of your tales of woe about the insurance cartel – sorry, industry – my own renewal note arrived this week. The premium has shot up by 12 per cent. But that's not the worst of it. What really niggles is that the only way of renewing the policy is on the internet and you don't even get a policy document or cover note; you have to find them in cyberspace and print them yourself. In what pig-ignorance, thick-headed corner of commerce is this regarded as customer service?

MEANWHILE, another reader, another moan. His 86-year-old mother, having loyally stayed with the same insurers for 20 years, was presented with a £202 bill to renew her house contents policy. He went online and found identical cover for £38. He informed the current insurers who promptly dropped their premium from £202 to £64. In the language of insurancespeak, loyal=mug.

TALKING POINT

One word to ballet SNOBs – shush!

I AM a ballet fan, a convert who came late to an appreciation of the art of the dance.

I encountered ballet through my job as a journalist and by the good fortune of having one of Europe's finest ballet companies, Birmingham Royal Ballet, move to my region from London some 27 years ago, where it had been Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.

Ballet has provided some of my most enchanting nights in the theatre. I have been spellbound by the beautiful elegance of the ballerinas, the strength of the male dancers and enchanted by the sumptuous, dream-like quality of the grand ballets. I have thrilled to the vigour and glamour of Matthew Bourne's productions, including his recent hit The Red Shoes, and enjoyed the charm, wit and excellence David Bintley has brought to Birmingham's repertoire.

But there is one thing that I don't like about ballet. There is, thankfully a minority, but ever present, an element in the ballet audience who seem to resent the rest of the audience.

They 'shush' at perfectly reasonably behaved audience members when they cough, admonish children who don't sit as still as statues, I even heard of one of these 'share not our ballet' types – or SNOB for short – chiding the person in the seat in front of them for having the temerity to be tall. Did she want him to crouch! I have seen them at almost every ballet event, looking daggers, rolling their eyes, and using passive aggressive tactics on people who they obviously don't think belong in the audience for a ballet.

I even heard one comment that it looked as if many of those in the audience were on benefits. They were referring to the likes of you and me. By benefits I guess they don't mean a pension, as sad to say, most of these SNOBs are in the well-heeled senior category.

The average ballet fan is not the sort of hotdog munching, phone chattering, Slushie slurping character from your worst cinema multiplex nightmare. The worst I have ever come across is someone with a hacking cough who should have remained in their sick bed. Those who attend ballet have spent a lot on a ticket to enjoy an art that will, in this age of shrinking subsidies, surely die unless it finds a fresh younger audience.

The moaners want to keep ballet to themselves. Many of the dancers don't come from privileged backgrounds, there are several Billy and Milly Elliots. So hurry for Bintley and Bourne, maintaining high standards whilst creating productions that are genuinely popular.

I saw one of the old guard groan when the audience rose in their seats to give The Red Shoes a standing ovation at The Hippodrome. Whether he thought it undeserved or was just annoyed that his view was briefly obscured, I know not. Perhaps I should have shushed him.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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No grasp of problems with NHS

YOUR correspondent Shaun Harrison seems to have little or no grasp of the problems that afflict the NHS.

Having worked for the NHS for eight years, and having watched the BBC documentary Hospital, I can say that the reality is very different to Mr Harrison's portrayal and that it is unfair to blame health tourism or even the drunks and drug users for what is wrong with the NHS.

The Government has refused local councils any new money for their budgets, forcing councils to make drastic cuts in vital

areas such as social care. Less room in care homes means that elderly and disabled patients who are well enough to be discharged, cannot be discharged because there is no care plan in place for them and they have no family or friends to look after them and nowhere else to go.

This causes a massive shortage of beds in NHS hospitals which in turn increases the waiting time for beds to be allocated to new patients.

SEAN FLANAGAN
Aldridge

Fall prompts reality check

UNFORTUNATELY I had an accident in Willenhall Market – falling over.

The Government have been saying about using the pharmacist in such instances, so I went to a local chemist asking for help as it was pouring with blood.

He couldn't even come and see me, just told the girl to tell me to go to A&E. The Government need to come down to the real world. Fortunately Boost Chemist's helped.

Incidentally, I am disabled and 77 years old, and it was a good job a young man and two boys helped – I can't thank them enough.

Although I smashed my teeth and mouth, I didn't want to go to A&E as they are overworked as it is.

MRS YD HARRISON
Willenhall

Baby boom but no room

I AGREE with every word of Keith Watkins' letter (February 2) but would dare to go a step further and think the unthinkable thought that, in today's world, for a man to father or a woman to bear, more than two children should be regarded as unacceptable behaviour.

We should replace ourselves and leave it at that.

Celebrities are no help since almost every week we read of one of them proudly announcing the birth of their third, fourth or fifth child. They might answer that they could afford them.

Of course they can, but the world can't.
JOHN LESTER
Walsall

Code of Practice:

Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Sailing on towards a reunion

THANK you again local newspapers, like this one, for printing my letters about reuniting those who have served together in the Royal Navy.

My letters are often cut out and sent to someone who has served; 'My niece saw your letter and sent it to me'.

Many are missing the camaraderie of those who served, such as the eight already found from HMS Raleigh; 23 Entry Benbow Division, 2nd June 1980.

And 'I wish I could relive some of it' – well this can be done in the form of an 'RN Shipmates Reunion' to be held over the weekend of Friday April 21 to Monday 24 in the Midlands.

This includes a coach tour over the weekend and of course, a tot issue. Wives and partners are welcome too. No association or annual subscription, just come and 'Swing the Lamp' and find old shipmates.

Contact me for reunion details, Mike Crowe on mike.crowe1@btinternet.com or at 7 Heath Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8PG (A stamp will help if writing to me for reunion details!)

The next move towards finding your old shipmate is yours. Do it now!

MIKE CROWE
Sandown

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

[walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:walsall.chron@expressandstar.co.uk)

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Council must step up to the crease

AFTER the failings of the English cricket team, the captain's resignation has been accepted. In football, consistent failings, the managers have to go.

In commerce, failing businesses are sold off, for new boards of directors to reorganise. Every week the reports are regularly showing Ofsted's criticism of Walsall's schools. Schools previously reported as good are showing need to improve.

Roads? The crossroads at Shire Oak and Brownhills High Street, both suffering with potholes and sunken iron work. A failing social

service, ignoring the plight of carers. The high obesity rate. The high level of teenage pregnancies. The continuing abdication of responsibility for WHG tenants. The continuing abuse of the sick leave facility.

What is so different with Walsall Council, with its multiple failings?

In a real world, I see the need to be shot of those that fail. With sixty councillors, a ridiculous number – surely a mayor with five other councillors would suffice, the rest have to go, now!

RAY HAMMOND
Aldridge

Juncker and May's way

IN the Chronicle of February 16, Peter Rhodes comments about Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission: "Elected by the people?"

"You must be joking, he was appointed by MEPs." Members of the European Parliament are, of course, directly elected by the people.

As are British MPs.

Just remind me then, how did Theresa May come to be our Prime Minister...?

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Coach firm drives forward with expansion



Mayor Councillor Kath Phillips cuts the ribbon, watched by Councillor Mohammed Arif; Mike Bird, leader of the Conservative Party for Walsall and company directors Asif Mohammed and Asan Fazal. Thomas Addyman and Dalia Ahmed from Santander also took part

ONE of the leading coach hire companies in the West Midlands, Walsall-based Travelstar European Ltd has moved to larger premises in Portland Street. The premises was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony last month, attended by Walsall Mayor Councillor Kath Phillips as well as other dignitaries from the council.

The firm was supported with a funding package from Santander Corporate & Commercial.

Established in 2005 with three vehicles, Travelstar European now operates 12 coaches and has more than 30 employees on its books. The firm has

become an established operator in the UK and the European coach touring market and is also a National Express Partner Operator, claiming the No1 Operator of the Year Award in 2015.

Having outgrown its previous home of 12 years in Marlow Street, the firm has invested £1 million in the new property.

The business has utilised the Santander Breakthrough programme to support the growth of the business. The bank has supplied a comprehensive suite of services, including a commercial mortgage. Asif Mohammed, managing director, said: "Travelstar

has started the New Year in great shape and we have big ambitions for the future. I would like to thank Santander Corporate & Commercial for its continuing support as well as partner operators from Volvo, Moseley PCV, ATS Euromaster, Michelin, Hoverland, and National Express, all of which have played a key part in our growth and success."

Dalia Ahmed, Relationship Director, Santander Corporate & Commercial, said: "We're delighted to have been able to support the management team at Travelstar European over the past five years and help the firm expand."



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Moving forward together hand in hand



Man of letters gets lyrical with move



Open mic finalist, The singing postman Nathan Farrell

THE Black Country's Singing Postman has delivered his last letter after he pledged to carve out a career in the music business. Nathan Farrell, aged 31, was crowned International Singer 2015 in the Open Mic International competition two years ago and was awarded a recording contract and a £10,000 prize.

But he carried on with the grinding daily five-hour trip delivering people's post in Pleck, Walsall – until Saturday. He was spurred on to take the plunge and focus on singing full-time after the death of his grandmother earlier this month and completed his last post round at the weekend. The former postman delivered rounds around Walsall borough, Great Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay over 13 years and now plans to spend more time with partner Jayne, son Connor and daughters Casey and Chloe while performing and touring the country.

He said: "It was a very emotional day. It was quite strange really, especially posting the last letters and parcels. I never thought the day would come but now it's a reality it was really emotional."

Raider in attack on policeman

A POLICEMAN was punched in the face and two patrol cars rammed by a masked raider in a frantic bid for freedom, a court heard.

Banned driver Jamie Hopson – on bail for an unrelated offence – was at the wheel of a stolen Subaru Impreza that had been involved in a ram raid minutes earlier, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The vehicle had also been spotted during a failed pub burglary shortly before that, said Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting. It was stolen from an address in Derby on December 20, 2015 and given false number plates.

Hopson, aged 23, and at least two other men went on a crime spree in the vehicle two days later, starting at the Wheatsheaf pub in Walsall Road, Great Wyrley.

Mr Soulsby said: "There was a forced entry but the landlord lives on the premises and heard a loud noise. This alerted his dogs."

Their barking spooked the raiders who fled empty-handed. CCTV confirmed the Subaru was at the scene at the time of the break-in.

Soon afterwards it was used to smash open the shutters of the Superdrug store in Market Place, Willehall. Hopson and his colleagues grabbed £5,000 worth of perfume but were seen making off by a passer-by who alerted police.

Details of the Impreza

Report by John Scott

were flashed to officers in the area and it was seen travelling down Walsall Road where the police vehicle blocked its path. Hopson, wearing a white face mask, rammed the patrol car before reversing at speed into another one that boxed it in. He could not break free and its occupants fled on foot.

A police officer who chased and caught the defendant was punched in the face, suffering a cut lip, but managed to complete the arrest, concluded Mr Soulsby.

Defending, Mr Andrew Mitchinson said the spur to Hopson's offending had been drugs but he was now "clean." Hopson, of Vaughan Road, Portobello pleaded guilty to aggravated vehicle taking, two burglaries, driving when disqualified, dangerous driving and assaulting a police constable. He was jailed for 30 months and banned from driving for three years one month.



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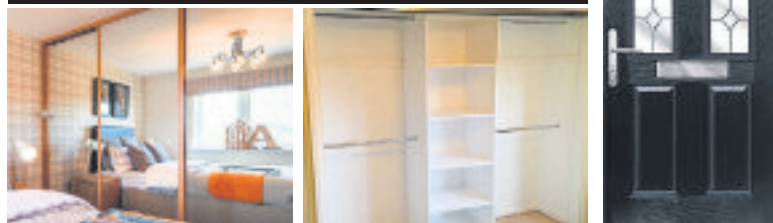
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Family ensures brave Lolly's legacy lives on

A TEENAGER who died after a life-long battle with asthma is leaving a legacy across the region.

Lauren Wilkinson, aged 17, from Darlaston, who was better known by her nickname Lolly, died on January 16.

She had battled disease from the age of three months and was placed in a coma after suffering a severe asthma attack in 2014.

She recovered but suffered a further fatal attack earlier this year. Lolly's family are determined to ensure her legacy lives on - and that has already started after the Grace Academy student agreed to be an organ donor.

Her heart, kidneys and liver were have all been donated to transplant patients, with Lolly's family receiving a letter informing them that her organs had already saved lives.

Saved

A fund set up in her honour has raised more than £2,200 for Walsall Manor's Paediatric Ward while the new grandstand at Darlaston Town 1874 FC, the club where she volunteered, has been named the Lauren 'Lolly' Wilkinson stand in her honour.

Her sister, Nicola Waite, also from Darlaston, said: "She was very humorous, very funny and really sentimental. She kept boxes of bus tickets and gig tickets, she loved her music. She was just one of a kind."

"There are no words to describe her death really, each day is horrific."

"It is like waking up every day and for the first few seconds it is normal, but then it hits you. It is still really raw and painful." Speaking about Lolly's organ donation, Ms Waite added: "The only thing that keeps the family going is that she has saved other people's lives with her organs."

"We have had a letter that has come



Lolly enjoyed a trip to Venice in Italy last year with her friends and family

from the family donor organ network to say what organs have been donated.

"The letter also said she has been able to save lives. We did not give them permission for the eyes and obviously they did not take the lungs but everything else has been salvaged."

Lolly's family, who all enjoyed a trip Venice last year with friends, are looking to raise money for Walsall Manor's Paediatric Ward, where she would spend time two to three times a year.

Ms Waite said: "It is only right we give something back to them." A just-giving page has been set up in Lolly's

memory. Walsall Council also held a bake sale on the day of the funeral.

A northern soul and motown event by the In Crowd is being held at MPV in Walsall on March 4, while a charity football match at Darlaston Town is also in the process of being arranged.

"People have been really generous with their donations, I cannot think them enough," added Ms Waite.

"Lolly always said it would be the worst thing to fade into oblivion when she died but that is not happening. She has touched so many people and it is great to know she has got her wish."

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Name game to put pupils in the picture



Form 5 youngsters at Hamstead Infants and Junior School seen out in the sunshine in 1957 with their teachers

LOCAL historian and author Terry Price has put out an appeal for information on two school pictures he has come across, in his research for a new book.

He has uncovered two photographs of Hamstead Infants and Junior School which he has asked The Chronicle to publish, in the hope that it jogs people's memories and he can establish the names of most, if not all, of the pupils captured in the frame.

Terry said: "Despite appeals in other newspapers, no names have ever been forthcoming and yet, most of these pupils are probably still alive today."

He explained that both pictures feature Form 5 pupils, one from around 1957 and another six years later.

The only names Terry does have is for the two teachers who are on both pictures, Dorothy Leedham and Christine Onions.

He added: "If anyone can provide any names, I can be contacted on 01922 635891."



Teachers Dorothy Leedham and Christine Onions with Form 5 in 1963

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Colleges merger in the offing as part of cost-cutting bid

TWO Walsall colleges could join forces in a move to reduce costs, it has been revealed.

The Department for Education (DfE) has recommended Walsall College and Walsall Adult Community College (WACC) should explore a partnership to 'reduce overlap', share services and slash costs.

The proposal has been revealed by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership LEP. It is unclear if jobs will be impacted. It comes as WACC is in the process of becoming independent from Walsall Council due to Government cuts in the authority's funding – a move which bosses said at the time would help safeguard its future. The establishment caters for 5,000 students and employs around 150 people across its two sites in Hawbush Road, Leamore, and Whitehall Centre, Caldmore.

The DfE's report which has been published by the Black Country LEP said: "Walsall Adult and Community College (WACC) is an Ofsted outstanding provider that is only two miles away from Walsall College and offers a broad range of community provision and some apprenticeship learning."

"It is in the process of becoming stand-alone from Walsall Council by 2017. Initial financial assessments of the college have already been made."

As reported last year the Government had already advised Walsall College merge with South Staffordshire College to form a single entity. That proposal is also likely to see job affected with the DfE stating the benefits will see rationalisation of 'back office and other services'. The purpose of the reviews is to put colleges on a stronger financial footing whilst also enabling them to better meet the economic and educational needs of students and employers for the long term, the DfE said.

Signs firm owner counting costs after fire



A fire fighter seen on High Street in Walsall Wood where a sign-making shop was left gutted

A WALSALL sign making shop has been left gutted after a cannabis factory caught fire above the shop.

Affordable Signs, on High Street in Walsall Wood, has been ruined with the owner left to count the cost of thousands of pounds worth of damage after a fire in the above flat.

The fire took hold late on Saturday February 11, and although it did not spread downstairs, the ceiling has come down and there has been extensive water damage to the shop and its machinery. Jamie McMahon, aged 42, from Cannock, who runs Affordable Signs, said: "The shop has been completely devastated. All the machines are ruined because of the ceiling and water damage. They have had to rip the ceiling down. We have salvaged what we can but a lot has been ruined."

"I am devastated. I found out about it when I was having a meal and someone phoned me to say my shop was on fire. I cannot do any work."

"The damage will be in the thousands. It has got to be rewired, new ceiling, new flooring and lots of things really. There will be hidden things on top of that as well. It is not going to be cheap."

Mr McMahon has already made contingency plans however and is hoping to temporarily operate from a new unit. West Midlands Police are investigating Saturday night's fire. They attended the property just before 11.30pm and found 15 cannabis plants. No one had yet been arrested.



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England cricket captain Joe Root talks with gymnast Kristian Thomas during his visit to the Walsall campus

BLACK Country Olympian Kristian Thomas has thanked England cricketer Joe Root after he visited the region.

Root, who was announced as England's Test captain, met Thomas when he gave him a tour of the British Judo Centre of Excellence at the Walsall campus of Wolverhampton University last Thursday.

The pair walked round the state of the art facility, which was opened in 2014, while they chatted about differing training regimes.

Thomas, an Olympic medallist from Wolverhampton, said: "It is an exciting time for him and exciting to have

him down here on the week he has been named the captain.

"We had a brief chat about training, especially being down in the gym. It was nice to talk to him about his kind of training and how it works and how it fits in because obviously cricket is not an Olympic sport so gymnasts and cricketers aren't really mingling that often. It was nice to get a different perspective.

"He definitely had a keen interest in the centre. I think any athlete takes interest in other athlete's programmes and the kind of work they do, it is a mutual understanding and I guess

a mutual appreciation for what you have had to do to get to that level. I heard him talking to the youngsters in the sport hall and offering his words of wisdom and I am sure it was really, really good for those budding cricketers."

Prior to the tour of the centre, Root had been in the sports hall at the campus taking part in a Q&A session for pupils of schools across Walsall.

One of the schools he met was St Michael's C Of E Junior Mixed & Infant School. Callum Douglas, 13, from the school, said: "It was great to meet him, very inspirational. I am a big fan."



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Sat 6 May	Dirty Dancing & Historic York	£129
Sat 13 May	The Commitments & Historic York	£99
Sat 13 May	Ken Dodd & Liverpool Special	£119
Sat 27 May	Adam Ant - Live in Concert	£119
Sat 10 Jun	Jane McDonald Live & Chester	£119
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2 DAY SPORT BREAKS

Thu 13 Apr	Betway Premier League Darts - Live!	£99
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Sat 13 May	Liverpool & Haydock Races	£99
Sat 13 May	Women's FA Cup Final - Wembley	£99
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Sat 20 May	British Touring Car Championship - Oulton Park	£119
Sat 20 May	Non-League Finals Day-Wembley Stadium	£99
Sat 27 May	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 1 Jul	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
Sat 5 Aug	Liverpool & Chester Races	£99
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Sat 26 Aug	Ebor Stakes - York Racecourse	£119

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Mon 6 Mar	4 Ostend Special Breakaway	£139
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Inclusive	£239
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle Inclusive	£239
Mon 6 Mar	5 Ostend Superdeal	£209
Mon 6 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£189
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£279
Fri 10 Mar	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The 888 Hotel	£289
Fri 10 Mar	4 Ostend Inclusive Weekend	£189
Mon 13 Mar	5 Amsterdam, Cologne & Valkenburg	£219
Mon 13 Mar	5 Rhine & Moselle Inclusive	£219
Mon 13 Mar	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£189
Sun 19 Mar	14 Spring Sunshine on the Costa Brava Coast	£599
Mon 20 Mar	5 Three Countries Inclusive Special	£199

Special Events Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
Sat 15 Apr	Emmerdale The Tour	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Skipiton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 6 May	York & Emmerdale Village Tour	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 20 May	Emmerdale The Tour	£119
Sat 17 Jun	Emmerdale The Tour	£119
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Tue 11 Jul	The Great Yorkshire Show & Historic York	£99
Sat 15 Jul	Emmerdale The Tour	£119
Wed 12 Aug	Bakewell Country Show & Historic Chester	£89
Sat 5 Aug	York & Emmerdale Village Tour	£119
Sat 19 Aug	Emmerdale The Tour	£119

Harlow Carr Flower Show

Sat 24 June £99

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Family Fun Great breaks for all the family!

Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice

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Sat 20 May	£99	Sat 29 July	£99
Sat 26 August	£99		

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- Included admission to the stunning 'Deep' where visitors can enjoy a unique interactive experience.

2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 24 Jun	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 1 Jul	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 22 Jul	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 5 Aug	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 12 Aug	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 26 Aug	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Thu 31 Aug	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£129
Sat 9 Sep	London & Harry Potter Studio Tour	£119
Sat 16 Sep	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 23 Sep	Legoland Spectacular	£99

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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Action call to police on shops vandalism

DEMANDS have been made for more police patrols on the streets of Darlaston after a series of thefts from shops, threats to staff and damage to properties.

Shops in the town, specifically the Rough Hay area, have been targeted by vandals, with windows damaged at Hussnains Convenience Shop on Willenhall Road and the Extreme Fashion hair studio on Rough Hay Road.

Matthew Burton, aged 42, who has run Extreme Hair Salon with wife Clare, 43, for seven years, said windows had been smashed and trade had been affected as a result.

"We don't know why we were targeted," he said. "Our biggest concern is that we may be targeted again, we are really worried."

"We have had to go to a specialist to get new windows."

Mohammed Altaf, shop owner at Hussnains Convenience Store, said his family were 'fed up' with trouble.

He said: "We are being driven out of business. We are fed up of the trouble. We are afraid they will come back."

Councillor Doug James said: "Following a series of thefts, threats and damage to the shop premises I am demanding more support for small business and shop staff in Rough Hay."

"I have contacted Darlaston Police and will take the matter further if necessary."

Big opening, bar none, on way after £50k refit

A BAR on Walsall's waterfront is celebrating its grand opening after undergoing a £50,000 refurbishment.

The Wharf has been renamed Bar 10 after managers Mat Lemm and Katie Butler enjoyed refurbishing The Worker's Rest in Willenhall four years ago and wanted a new challenge.

Mr Lemm said: "It's been really worth it, the whole place is absolutely amazing. We wanted to make somewhere classy for Walsall people to come and enjoy and give something back to everyone. All we need to do now is open the doors and see who wants to come on in."

The couple from Walsall began managing the bar in December and made more in their first week than the previous managers had made in any week of the last six months. This spurred them on to close the bar after the festive season and give it a complete overhaul.

Encouraged

Their grand opening on Saturday included fire eaters, fireworks and appearances from DJs such as Wayne Scott Fox and Becki de-Funk. The pair did a lot of the work themselves and were encouraged by their 16-month-old son, Jackson, who was often with them during the refurbishment. Mr Lemm said: "When you felt down he'd smile at you and spur you on."

To create publicity the couple started a competition on Facebook for people to turn their name into a dish with the top five winning a place on their menu.

Their dishes now include a 'Dickie-bun burger' named after their friend Richard and an 'Ethan mess.'

Bar 10 will be offering breakfast, lunch and evening menus and have reduced the price of beer to encourage new customers. They also have tribute nights planned as well as student events that will take place every week.



Mat Lemm and Katie Butler with staff



Bar 10 in Wolverhampton Street

MP backs speaker Bercow

WALSALL MP David Winnick has backed under-fire Commons Speaker John Bercow after calls were made claiming he should stand down.

Mr Bercow criticised Donald Trump and revealed that he had voted Remain in the EU referendum.

Now, Mr Winnick has come to his defence, saying that the claims being made by opposition MPs are 'hardly a reason' for dismissing him from his post.

He said: "The campaign against the Commons Speaker, John Bercow, is being orchestrated by just a few who

have, from the start, much resented his election to the post.

"If a challenge actually occurs, it is most unlikely it will succeed."

"Most MPs, on all sides, recognise that since being elected Speaker in 2009, he has done his utmost to ensure that backbenchers are called to put their point of view at question time, urgent questions, and ministerial statements."

"Moreover, in addition to this, he has been generous in allowing urgent questions from both opposition and government MPs."



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Norman Powell, seen at the RAF Museum, Cosford, by a Vickers Valiant bomber of 49 Squadron



Norman gets up close to the Valiant, with the squadron badge



Britain's first hydrogen bomb explodes on Christmas Island

Norman turned down chance to be part of history as bomb is dropped

SUN, sea, sand – apart from the small matter of a nuclear explosion or two, it was a free holiday of a lifetime.

But 60 years ago this month Norman Powell, then of Oldbury, turned down the invitation to take a trip to an exotic and remote island, and so missed the chance to witness history – the detonation of Britain's first hydrogen bomb.

He preferred not to go as he was courting and, as he went on to marry that young lady, it was a decision which changed the course of his life.

Standing at the RAF Museum at Cosford in the shadow of the very Vickers Valiant bomber which had a significant part in his tale, Norman, aged 79 reflects on his fateful choice. I was living then at Thompson Road at Langley in Oldbury, and served 18 months of my National Service in 49 Squadron at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire.

"At that time 49 Squadron had been as-

MEMORY LANE

Report by Toby Neal

signed to the task of testing the nuclear hydrogen bomb over the middle of the Pacific Ocean in the spring of 1957.

"The operation was, of course, very hush-hush and us lower ranks were kept completely in the dark about the details of the operation.

Courting

"In the February of that year a number of us young National Servicemen were asked if we would like to be flown to Christmas Island to witness the detonation of the bomb.

"We were informed that we would not have anything to do out there but lounge around in the sun, sea and sand.

"I declined to volunteer because I was courting a local village girl at that time – she's now my wife of 58 years – and I must say I am glad I didn't because numerous

witnesses consequently suffered illnesses related to radiation in their later years."

"The nuclear bomb was dropped from a Vickers Valiant piloted by Wing Commander Kenneth Hubbard who was our commanding officer at RAF Wittering at that time." It is this same Valiant which is displayed in the National Cold War Exhibition at the museum with the names of the crew and 49 Squadron's badge on the side of the fuselage.

Norman, now living in Bucknell, Shropshire had worked in the workshop at the base, and not on the aircraft, but was able to observe the V-bombers' comings and goings as they went on rolling patrols to be on constant readiness with Britain's nuclear deterrent.

Britain's first hydrogen bomb was dropped by the Valiant south of Christmas Island in May 1957 and there followed a series of other atomic tests. Its flying career ended in December 1964 when all Valiants were grounded because of structural problems. It came to Cosford in 2005.



Norman, front right, with some of his National Service colleagues from 60 years ago

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Riot predicted

Kaisers back after forest date
See Page 21



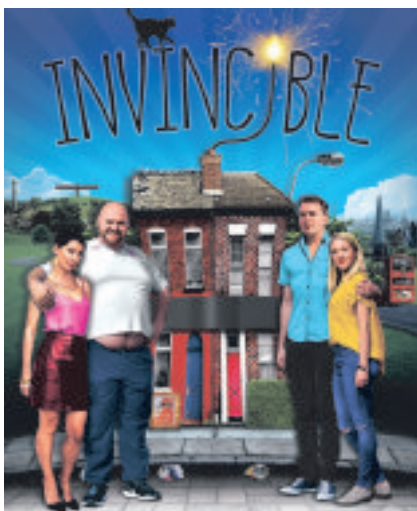
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Andy Zaltzman



Tonight, 7pm
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Specialising in politics and sport, the master satirist known for top comedy podcast The Bugle and working with Last Week Tonight's John Oliver talks up his Plan Z for mankind. See www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Pet Shop Boys



Tonight, 7.30pm
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The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

The Scopyons (Scorpions Tribute) + Psycho Kiss
Tonight, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Blockheads – 40th Anniversary Tour
Tonight, £18 - £20
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
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GLAM 45 – Seventies Glam Rock plus SWEET 45!
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Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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Quest Fest
Sun, £5 - £10
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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Metal To The Masses Birmingham – ROUND 1 – HEAT 1
Wed, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
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Stevie Nimmo Trio
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Wednesday 13
Wed,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The ELO Experience
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

CLUBBING

Seedy Sonics presents Gone West
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B9 4AG.
Call 0121 753 1818

Break Stuff – A Night of Nu-Metal Nostalgia
Tomorrow, £4
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991

CLASSICAL

St. David's Day Concert
Tomorrow, £19
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Organ Proms 2017
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Young Musicians Showcase
Sun,
Bromsgrove Concerts, B61 8LG.
Call 01527 836147

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Barbara Dickson
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

One Night In Nashville
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Acoustic Sessions
Tue,
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Hannah Johnson & The Broken Hearts
Wed, £14.95
The Jam House,
Birmingham, B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, REGGAE & MOTOWN

The Glenn Miller Orchestra
Sun,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

POP

Mike and the Mechanics
Tomorrow,
Symphony Hall Birmingham, The
International Convention Centre,
B1 2EA.
and
Mon,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

THEATRE

Knoxville Highway
Tonight, £6
Forest Arts Centre, Walsall,
WS3 1AG.
Call 01922654555

A Judgement In Stone
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.

Cinderella
Tonight - tomorrow, £16
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Anton & Erin – Strictly
Tonight,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0121 707 1874

Circus of Horrors
Tonight,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Thriller Live
Tonight - tomorrow,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Cirque Berserk!
Tonight - Sun
Birmingham REP Theatre,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Royal Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty
Tue, £12.50 - £18
Light House, The Chubb
Buildings, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716 055
and
Tue, £14.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

017 Dance Show: Around the World
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Vampires Rock: The Ghost Train
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

An Evening of Dirty Dancing – The Ultimate Tribute Show
Thu,
Brierley Hill Civic Hall, DY5 3DH.
Call 01384 812730

COMEDY

Standup comedy – Mickey Sharma, Micky Bartlett, Mark Nelson
Tonight - tomorrow, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club, Birmingham, B15 1DA.
Call 08700 111 960

Sean Lock – Keep It Light
Tue, £25
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Round The Horne
Wed,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Henning Wehn
Thu, £14.50
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ARTS & CULTURE

Photographic Prize 2017
Today - Thu,
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David Cox and his Contemporaries
Today - Thu,
Worcester City Art Gallery,
WR1 1DT.
Call 01905 25371

Somewhere Never Travelled – Annette Pugh Solo Exhibition
Today - Thu,
Reuben Colley Fine Art,
Birmingham, B3 2BB.
Call 0121 236 0920

The Last One Standing: The Tale of Bersham Colliery
Today - Thu,
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.
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Today - Thu,
Wrexham Museums, LL14 4HT.
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Enquiring Minds
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Birmingham, B25 8RN.
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Stitch Social
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Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
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Uncovering Mysteries
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Buried Treasures
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The Barber Institute of Fine Arts,
University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
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Whyley Dance
Tue,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973.

Solihull Photographic Society – competition
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Solihull Women's Institute,
B91 3DQ. Call 07815 165438

Title TBC
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University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Beginners Embroidery Course
Wed,
Creative Coffee Hub,
Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Ricky ready to run riot at arena show



Straight-talking Ricky Wilson with the rest of the Kaiser Chiefs, ready to make a brilliant noise in Birmingham

DON'T expect anything but honesty from one of music's most successful frontmen of the past 10 years.

Kaiser Chiefs' singer Ricky Wilson is the epitome of a straight-talking, no-nonsense Yorkshireman.

Take their upcoming tour, calling in at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Saturday. For a band returning after a lay-off following their successful 2015 Education, Education, Education tour, you'd imagine

maybe a few nerves. "Well, with the shows, I've got this problem that I'm too ambitious," he said. "I'm always on to the next thing. To me, they're not big enough, I want them bigger. I want to do a bigger tour in the autumn."

The gigs come hot on the heels of their show-stealing 2016 headline slot at V, when they revealed to the other acts on the bill what a real festival band is made of. Ricky had a blast.

"I thought it was brilliant. These days, there's not as many bands who can headline that sort of show. We've cornered the market."

The Leeds band's latest album, Stay Together, is unashamedly pop. Ricky, who became a household name thanks to his role as judge and chief charmer on the BBC run of The Voice UK, said: "Making an album is just about making 45 minutes of brilliant noise – think about it – that's all it is."



Soul sister's brand new act

ALEXANDRA Burke does seem to have cornered the market in playing divas in peril. After around two years in the role of Rachel Marron in The Bodyguard, she is now playing an equally iconic character on stage.

This time around though, it is a lead role that requires a lighter touch in the shape of Deloris Van Cartier, the sassy singer who witnesses a gangland murder and is placed out of harm's way in a convent.

Thus begins Sister Act, which is on at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday until Saturday (March 4) as part of a UK tour. The revival has been directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig Revel Horwood and wowed audiences at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre last year.

Alexandra admits she took a little bit of persuasion to bring Deloris to life, particularly as it meant stepping into the shoes of Whoopi Goldberg, who played

Deloris in the movie. She recalled: "I actually wasn't too sure about saying yes although it was a fantastic opportunity."

"I didn't know if I was made for the role. It was actually the soundtrack that made me say yes. The songs are just so beautiful and I thought it would be a privilege to sing them."

Spin

After winning The X Factor in 2008, her debut single Hallelujah was a massive hit. Concert tours, hit albums and West End success followed.

Alexandra is keen to create a new characterisation of Deloris and not just copy Whoopi Goldberg.

She said: "I always want to put my own spin and my own interpretation on anything that I do because that's my way. In fact, I have deliberately not watched the whole movie."

Visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01902 429212.

Rhythm sticks ready for 40th anniversary

GET your rhythm sticks out, The Blockheads are bringing Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll to Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow night (Friday) for the band's 40th anniversary.

Formed in 1977 as backing band for Ian Dury and songwriting partner Chaz Jankel, they first hit the road with their iconic singer when debut album New Boots and Panties was released on Stiff Records.

Dury died in 2000 but The Blockheads carried on and are now fronted by Ian's friend and minder Derek 'The Draw' Hussey, Jankel, Norman Watt-Roy, John Turnbull and Mick Gallagher remain from the original band. Tickets are £18 (advance) and £20 (door). See robin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

X marks spot as TV show pop stars roll in

THE X Factor Live Tour 2017 will roll into the West Midlands for a concert tomorrow night (Friday) at Birmingham's Genting Arena, at the NEC.

Viewers' favourites from last year's show will be taking to the stage. The line-up will also include runner-up Saara Aalto, Honey G, boy band 5 After Midnight, Emily Midlemas, girl band Four of Diamonds, Ryan Lawrie and Sam Lavery.

Attended by more than three million people so far, The X Factor Live Tour has been one of the most successful annual arena tours in the UK for the last 12 years.

See www.gentingarena.co.uk for details.

Marley musical a hit ahead of premiere

BIRMINGHAM Repertory Theatre's new Bob Marley musical, is a hit even before it opens at the Century Square theatre next month.

Popular demand for tickets for the world premiere of the show about the life of the reggae legend is so great that its run has been extended by a week.

Written and directed by former Casualty and Holby City actor Kwame Kwei-Armah, One Love: The Bob Marley Musical will now run from March 10 to April 15.

Stuart Rogers, executive director at Birmingham Rep said: "It seems to have captured the public's attention."

To book, visit birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

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MONDAY
From Paris with Love, Channel 5, 10pm
 An aide at the American embassy in Paris longs to become a CIA agent, but gets more than he bargained for when he is assigned to assist an trigger-happy secret service operative. The agent leads him on a dangerous journey through the city's underworld as they fight to prevent a terrorist attack on the city. Action thriller, with John Travolta. (2010)

Dear Diary, I Died, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. When a college student appears to have committed suicide, her sister tries to uncover the secrets behind her death. Thriller, starring Katherine Kelly Lang. (2016)

Fatal Honeymoon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman goes on honeymoon to Australia, only to drown during a scuba-diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Her father is not convinced this was an accident, and begins to suspect her husband may have murdered her. A year later, he finally finds the evidence to prove his accusation. Fact-based crime drama, starring Harvey Keitel and Billy Miller. (2012)



A Date to Die For, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A recent divorcee, suffering from bipolar disorder, accepts a date with a single father. The next morning, she awakens to find her date's dead body in her bed, a knife plunged in his chest. Trying to piece together her memories of the previous night, she sets out to defend her reputation and the lives of her family by locating the killer herself. Thriller, starring Victoria Pratt. (2015)

Zero Dark Thirty, Channel 4, 12.55am
A CIA operative joins a team of intelligence and military operatives in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. She spends the next 10 years searching for information on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, ultimately leading to the final raid on the terrorist leader's hideout. Kathryn Bigelow's fact-based drama, starring Jessica Chastain. (2012)

Olivia Colman and David Tennant star in Broadchurch, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Gabby Logan presents coverage of the second session on day one from the Kombat Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, where medals are awarded in five events. Katarina Johnson-Thompson concludes her bid to retain the pentathlon title when she competes in the long jump and 800m, while the other finals taking place are in the men's pole vault and 60m hurdles, and the women's shot put and 60m hurdles. With commentary and analysis from Steve Backley, Steve Cram, Colin Jackson, Denise Lewis and Paula Radcliffe.

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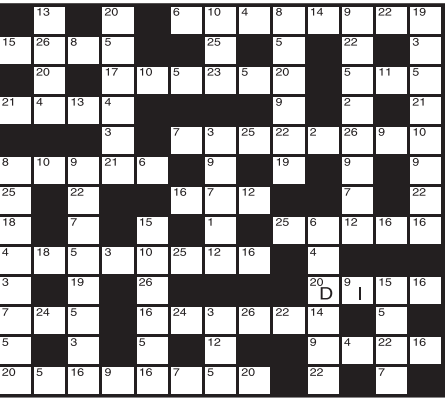
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	Q	L	N	3	4	5	K	E	B	I	A	10	O	F	C	H
14	S	G	R	M	X	V	P	U	W	J	Y	T	D			

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

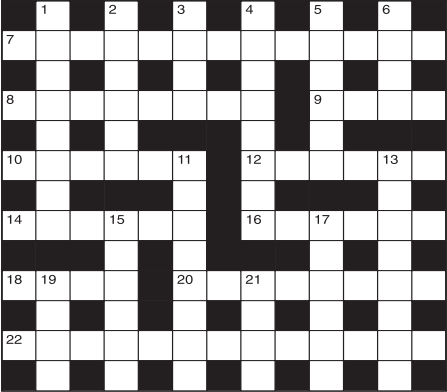
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 7. A fitting description, as a rule (4,2,7)
- 8. Placed in a grave position (8)
- 9. A particular variation of time (4)
- 10. It's hot to the tongue, and cold to the ear (6)
- 12. After all, it is very new (6)
- 14. Added zest in the kitchen (6)
- 16. His map is spoiled by accident (6)
- 18. The odd dose of poetry? (4)
- 20. He won't expect to be taken seriously when working (8)
- 22. Are friends and succeed in a joint enterprise (3,2,8)

Down

- 1. It must honour its pledges (4,4)
- 2. Make something known about calf meat (6)
- 3. Number who sound as though they approve (4)
- 4. Part of a movement set to swing time (8)
- 5. A fool it's wrong to help (6)
- 6. Let out for no rent (4)
- 11. Show I can edit afresh (8)
- 13. One who makes predictions about a distant traveller (8)
- 15. It's regular trade practice (6)
- 17. Teased about being placid (6)
- 19. Special fare for a conference (4)
- 21. They gave original Christmas gifts, showing some imagination (4)



Quick Clues:

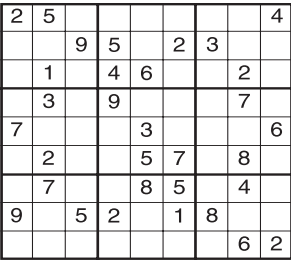
Across

- 7. Moody (13)
- 8. Gloomy (8)
- 9. Part (4)
- 10. Cask (6)
- 12. Split (6)
- 14. Decrease (6)
- 16. Piping (6)
- 18. Couple (4)
- 20. Easily frightened (8)
- 22. Additional (13)

Down

- 1. Adjust (8)
- 2. Seem (6)
- 3. Press (4)
- 4. Tacit (8)
- 5. False (6)
- 6. Lament (4)
- 11. Extend (8)
- 13. Front line (8)
- 15. Streak (6)
- 17. Scold (6)
- 19. Adjoin (4)
- 21. Submissive (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	9	8	3	2	1	4	7	6
2	1	3	7	6	4	9	5	8
4	7	6	9	5	8	3	1	2
6	4	2	5	1	3	7	8	9
8	5	7	4	9	6	2	3	1
9	3	1	2	8	7	6	4	5
1	6	4	8	3	9	5	2	7
3	2	9	1	7	5	8	6	4
7	8	5	6	4	2	1	9	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Idea; 8 Drummed out; 9 Abstract; 10 Earn; 12 Nearly; 14 Yields; 15 Parkas; 17 Litter; 18 Lean; 19 Rosemary; 21 Fall asleep; 22 Sage. Down: 2 Double dated; 3 Add; 4 Queasy; 5 Smithy; 6 Adherent; 7 Eton; 11 Red herring; 13 Rekindle; 16 Stress; 17 Listen; 18 Left; 20 Maps. QUICK - Across: 1 High; 8 Ameliorate; 9 Material; 10 Copy; 12 Fickle; 14 Report; 15 Abject; 17 Rather; 18 Mean; 19 Intimate; 21 Persuasive; 22 Tend. Down: 2 Invariable; 3 Hale; 4 Device; 5 Killer; 6 Crackpot; 7 Deny; 11 Perfection; 13 Keenness; 16 Tribal; 17 Retain; 18 Mope; 20 Meet.

Quiz

- 1. Which people's word for a European means 'the big eyebrows'?
- 2. Who starred as Hannibal Lecter in Silence of the Lambs?
- 3. Which two countries originally contested the Ryder Cup?
- 4. Of which beetle is the wireworm the larva?
- 5. What is a mountain lion or cougar more correctly called?
- 6. Who regained the world heavyweight boxing championship after more than 20 years in 1994?
- 7. In which country was the first Women's Institute group founded in 1897?
- 8. Who is the only US president to have been elected for four consecutive terms?
- 9. Of which country have there been three king Victor Emmanuels?
- 10. Who succeeded Bobby Fischer as world chess champion in 1975?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 African wildcat; 2 Yashmak; 3 Sister Act; 4 Rio de Janeiro; 5 Michael Heseltine; 6 Terracotta; 7 Marsupial; 8 Finland; 9 Robert Powell; 10 Pear tree. Niner: PURCHASED

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1679749 gives flowers,
878749 gives more flowers,
3728459 gives even more flowers.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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It's easy to get around Hamburg via the city's over and underground train lines



Speicherstadt district with the new Elbphilharmonie



The Reeperbahn Festival takes its name from the popular Reeperbahn Street



Beer o'clock at the famous Ratsheern brewery

City of culture, canals and Currywurst

IT was like stepping into a movie set. Tall, red brick-buildings lined the old canals. The district, once a thriving hub of activity, was now eerily quiet except for the faint echoes that bounced off the walls.

We were walking through the Speicherstadt, or the 'Old Warehouse City', a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A castle-like restaurant awaited us several hundred yards away where we were to have lunch. It was sat on one of the bridges crossing the canal.

I had a Currywurst – a steamed (then fried) sausage topped off with a spicy ketchup and curry powder. It was an interesting combination.

The Restaurant, called Wasserschloss, proved a great setting to take in the surroundings. We were perched up on tables on an outside deck. I could make out cranes spaced out along the copper roof tops – which were used for winching up cargo into the warehouses for storage.

"The storage companies moved out about

Hamburg, Germany

25 years ago," my tour guide Paul Klein said. "And modern companies moved in for office space." It was one of Hamburg's many distinctive districts. The Speicherstadt was built in the late 19th and early 20th century, with its buildings and architecture unique to Hamburg.

Around the corner was a newly-opened coffee museum, which housed all information and equipment about coffee. Coffee is important in Hamburg's history. Coffee was one of the main commodities stored in the warehouses, alongside others such as tea and carpet, which is why the museum had opened up in the Speicherstadt.

Wunderland

Also close by was 'Miniatur Wunderland' – the largest model railway in the world. Exhibitions spanning multiple floors displayed tiny replicas of cities across the world – including Las Vegas and, of course, Hamburg.

And the settings of the exhibitions would

change from day to night every few minutes, which gave an added authentic touch.

Hamburg has many tales, spread out across districts of different time periods. Each one with a unique appearance and vibe.

The city was bombed heavily during the Second World War, so a lot of re-development has taken place. This includes the overdue 800 million Euro symphony hall due to open this year, called the Elbphilharmonie.

A few blocks away from the Speicherstadt was St Pauli – a district in total contrast to the sleepy warehouse area. It is well known for its entertainment and night-life. Parts of it were not family friendly.

It was the old stomping ground of The Beatles in the 1960s, which is still celebrated today. It is also home to one of Europe's largest legal red light districts.

We were taken through the colourful streets by musician Stefanie Hempel. She showed us the venues that The Beatles once played, whilst performing their hit-songs. "The Beatles got their trademark haircut whilst in Hamburg," she said, adopting the style of German art students.

The waterways of Hamburg are important part of life in the city. The canals run to the River Elbe, and restaurants will often serve up fish on their menus, including fresh water shrimps.

The Ratsheern Brewery, located in St Pauli, offered great beer, which could be sampled on tours of the brewery. The overground and underground train lines made navigating the city easy.

I stayed at the Hotel Reichshof during my trip, located right across the road from Hamburg's central train station, Hauptbahnhof. It was a traditional hotel across six storeys with a restaurant, bar, and sports and spa facilities.

After five days experiencing the city, I found Hamburg a warm city with real character, culture and authenticity.

Each district offered something different – shopping, history, art, museums and entertainment.

Hamburg would make an enjoyable getaway trip for a city break, whatever time of year, where you can find a genuine look into modern Germany.

Jamie Brassington

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Suprisingly spacious semi-detached family home

This charming three-double-bedroomed semi-detached home in Bloxwich Road North, Short Heath, Willenhall, is a perfect home for a growing family.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £175,000.

A well presented and suprisingly spacious three-bedroom semi-detached property, it is situated in the ever popular Short Heath area of Willenhall.

In brief, its living accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, a 24ft lounge/diner, a modern fitted kitchen, a separate utility room and ground floor WC.

To the first floor there are three double bedrooms, a separate WC and a separate bathroom with both a bath and shower cubicle.

There is also an integral garage accessible from the outside front. The property also benefits from having both double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

To the outside there is extensive off-road parking and a garden to the side, there are also gardens to the rear with a gated vehicular access from Church Road.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "The property is superbly situated for access to a wide range of local amenities, a choice of popular local schools and excellent transport links.

"This is a uniquely styled and superbly presented family home which simply must be viewed to fully appreciate."

L & S Prestige Estates Ltd is a privately run, independent firm of estate and letting agents based in Willenhall. They opened in 2009 and have fast become one of Willenhall's most respected and recognisable agents, known for their professional standards and friendly, personal service to all their clients, said a company spokesman.

Directors Steven Kelly and Yvonne Menear are closely involved with the day-to-day running of the company, and, along with an experienced team are recognised for their professional integrity.

SHORT HEATH £175,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: L&S Prestige Estates

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KEY FEATURES

Semi-detached

3 double bedrooms

Kitchen, utility

Guest WC & separate WC

Bathroom with bath & shower



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Walsall
01922 711444
 7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX



Goodchids
 Estate Agents & Lettings

Lichfield Road, Willenhall

- Substantial Detached Home
- Six Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- 27' Kitchen/Diner
- DG & GCH
- Detached Garage
- EPC - D

£380,000

Walton Heath, Turnberry Estate

- Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Solid Oak Kitchen
- Four Generous Bedrooms
- En-Suite Bathroom
- Newly Fitted A Rated Windows
- Integral Garage
- EPC - D

£275,000

Victoria Terrace, Walsall

- Victorian Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge with Open Fireplace
- Superb Views
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£275,000

NEW

Castle Drive, Willenhall

- Refurbished Bungalow
- Hayes Development
- Large Driveway
- Garage
- Two Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Refitted Howdens Kitchen
- EPC - E

£167,500

NEW

Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen/Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £145,995

Formby Way, Turnberry

- Spacious Detached Residence
- Excellent Condition Throughout
- Three Generous Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen with Butchers Block Surfaces
- Desirable Turnberry Development
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Great School Catchment
- EPC - TBC

£240,000

Bramcote Way, Rushall

- Superb End Town House
- Views over Parkland
- Driveway for Two Cars
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Diner
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - B

£140,000

Woodside Way, Willenhall

- Extended Mid-Town House
- Driveway and Garage
- Spacious Ground Floor Living Accommodation
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- In Need of Modernisation
- Front & Rear Gardens
- EPC - TBC

£154,950

Mulberry Place, Dudley Fields

- NEW BUILD
- Three Bedroom Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC

£138,000

Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £136,500

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Traditional Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- EPC - E

£125,000

Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Immaculately Presented Period Property
- Refurbished Throughout
- Refitted Kitchen & Luxurious Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- EPC - D

£125,000

NEW

Hough Road, Walsall

- Superb Two Bedroom
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to Let
- Close to Local Amenities
- Within Easy Access of the M6 Motorway
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- EPC - B

£120,000

Little Station Street, Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Town Centre Location
- Train Station Within Walking Distance
- Decorated Communal Areas
- Lounge
- EPC - E

Excess of £60,000

NEW

Chepstow Road, Bloxwich

- Well Presented End Terrace
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to Let
- Ground Floor Shower Room
- Refitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garage/Parking
- No Chain
- EPC - D

£110,000

Waters Keep, Leamore

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

From £118,995

Parker Street, Bloxwich

- Well Presented Throughout
- Rosewood Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Refitted Breakfast Kitchen with Ground Floor WC
- Double Glazing
- EPC - D

£110,000

Star Close, Bentley

- Cash Buyers Only
- Well Presented Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Modern Decor
- Kitchen/Diner
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£92,000

Foster Street, Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Victorian Terrace
- Built in 1904
- Sutton Coldfield
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EPC - E

£90,000

West Street, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- EPC - E

Offers in Excess of £80,000

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42 BIRCHES PARK ROAD, CODSALL

Large three bedroomed Home, two Reception, fitted Kitchen, smart Bathroom, Gas C.H, Double Glazing, Garage, attractive Gardens. epc.C71

Guide: £144,000 - £149,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY

@ 10.45 a.m.



593 STAFFORD ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Ready for modernisation -popular district -well located three bed Semi., Bathroom, Two Reception, Kitchen, Laundry, G.F. wc., Garage facility, long Rear Garden est. 100ft epc.TBA

Guide: £93,000 - £98,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY @ 9.45 a.m.



68 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Ground Floor Flat 14ft. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, smart Bathroom Garage, pleasant rear outlook. epc.E54

Guide: £48,000 - £53,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY @ 11.45 a.m.



240 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD, LANESFIELD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Elevated position, large Dormer Bungalow Porch, Lounge, big Dining Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, 19ft. F.F. Bedroom, Store Room, Gas CH., DG. Gardens, 24ft. Garage. epc F39

Guide £115,000 - £120,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY @ 11.00 a.m.

(Access via Mount Road and Lane Road)



14 WALSALL ROAD, WILLENHALL

Ripe for improvement & close to Town Centre. Spacious End Terrace, Porch, Three Reception, Kitchen Two Double Bedrooms huge 16ft Bathroom!! Outside - WC, Stores, lawned Garden. epc.TBA

Guide £49,000 plus

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY @ 12.00 noon



168 - 169 STAFFORD STREET, WALSALL

Fronting Stafford Street (B4210), established shopping area.

Double fronted - approx, 28ft. - Retail Unit, Kitchen (1st / 2nd floors not currently accessible)

Rear Yard, Parking. epc C.65

Guide: £85,000 - £95,000

VIEWING

MONDAY & TUESDAY, 27th & 28th FEBRUARY 11.30 a.m.



49 HIGHLAND ROAD, DUDLEY

Large Semi, Double Glazing, CH., Two Reception, extended Kitchen / Diner, fitted Cloakroom Three Bedrooms, En Suite + sep. Bathroom Rear Garden. epc.E54

Guide: £84,000 - £89,000

VIEWING

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 24th & 25th FEBRUARY

@ 10.00 a.m.



VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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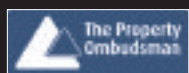
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NEW

WALSALL
HARVEST GROVE

- Stunning Family Home
- Through Hallway
- Lounge, WC
- Kitchen/diner
- Conservatory
- 4 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Dressing Room, En-Suite
- Garage, Driveway

\$220,000

NEW

BLOXWICH
STONEY LANE

- Impressive Bungalow
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen Family Room
- 4/5 Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- NO CHAIN

\$355,000

NEW

BLOXWICH
MAY STREET

- Family Home
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- No Chain

\$114,950

NEW

BLOXWICH
WETHERBY ROAD

SS1C
Similar Required

- Sought After Cul De Sac
- Semi Detached
- Through Hallway
- Lounge/diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway

\$139,950

WALSALL
GILLITY CLOSE

- Dorma Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- large Family Lounge
- Seven Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Shower Room
- Sitting Room
- Kitchen/diner, Utility
- En-suite and shower room
- Gardens
- Double Garage

\$550,000

WOLVERHAMPTON
DONNINGTON GROVE

- Modern Starter Home
- Open-plan Lounge
- Guest WC
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Parking
- Viewing Recommended

\$124,950

WALSALL
EAGLEWORKS

- Ground Floor
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Viewing Recommended

\$44,950 40% Shared

NEW


BLOXWICH
MAY STREET

- Spacious Family Home
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Driveway
- Landscaped Garden
- Viewing Essential

\$114,950

"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"

BLOXWICH
YIELDFIELDS HALL FARM



- Semi Rural Location
- Det. Dormer Bungalow
- Reception Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility
- Guests WC

\$360,000

WILLENHALL
WOOD LANE CLOSE



- Dormer Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- Refitted Kitchen diner
- Lounge with Inglenook fireplace
- Orangery Room
- Three Bedroom

OFFERS OVER \$300,000

BLOXWICH
SNEYD LANE



- Auction Price
- Investment Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen, WC
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- 3 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden

Guide Price \$60,000

WALSALL
CASTLE ROAD



SSTC
Similar Required

- Spacious Family Home
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Overlooking Fields
- Well Presented
- Viewing Essential
- Potential to Extend

\$265,000

WALSALL
WINDRUSH CLOSE



SSTC
Similar Required

- Semi Detached
- Through hallway
- Kitchen
- Lounge diner
- Guest WC
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens

OFFERS OVER \$140,000

ALDRIDGE
BERRYFIELDS



SSTC
Similar Required

- Mid Town House
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Parking

\$135,000



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RUSHALL
FRIARY CRESCENT



- First Floor Apartment
- Secure Entry System
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Communal Garden

\$70,000

SUTTON COLDFIELD
BAKERS LANE



- Stunning Semi Detached
- Through Hallway, Guest WC
- REFITTED Kitchen, Generous Lounge Diner, Three Bedrooms

\$309,950

WALSALL
BENTLEY DRIVE



- Spacious Semi Property
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Two Bedrooms

\$120,000

WILLENHALL
BAYNTON ROAD



SSTC
Similar Required

- 3 Bed Semi
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Viewing Recommended

\$130,000 Offers Over

WALSALL
SELBY WAY



SSTC
Similar Required

- Mid Town House
- Lounge
- Refitted Kitchen
- Spacious Utility
- 3 Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Rear Garden
- No Chain

\$105,000

BLOXWICH
CLOCKMILL PLACE



SSTC
Similar Required

- Town House
- Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility / Garden Room, Three Bedrooms

Offers Over \$100,000

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<p>UPPER PENN</p> <p>GREAT HALL GROVE, W'TON Five Bedroom Executive Detached, Lounge & Separate Study, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, En-Suite to both Master & Bedroom 2, Office/Den, Double Garage & Off Road Parking. £675,000</p>	<p>SLADE HEATH</p> <p>OLD STAFFORD ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON Three Bed Semi Detached Cottage, Lounge, Sitting Room, 22ft Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Separate Utility Room, Sun Room Overlooking Rear Garden, First Floor Family Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Side & Rear Gardens, Stunning Views, Must View! £350,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>COPPICE OAK, WILLENHALL Executive Four Bed Detached, Spacious Lounge, Dining Room, Feature Conservatory, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Guest W.C., Two En-Suites, Family Bathroom, Ample Parking, Gated Development £285,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Impressive Three Bed Detached Bungalow, 25ft Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower To Master, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Rear Garden £275,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>SHERLOCK CL, WILLENHALL Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Impressive 17ft x 12ft Conservatory, Kitchen/Diner With Fitted Appliances, Family Bathroom, Gated Driveway, Garage, Front & Rear Gardens, Viewing Strongly Advised! £269,995</p>	<p>POOL HAYES</p> <p>RAVENS CROFT ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached House, Lounge/Diner, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., First Floor Family Bathroom, C/Heating & Majority D/Glazing, Driveway Parking, Front & Rear Gardens £250,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>MAREE GROVE, WILLENHALL Four Bed Detached House, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., En-Suite Shower Room To Master, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Off Road Parking & Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden £245,000</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>POOLES LANE, WILLENHALL Three/Four Bed Detached, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room/Fourth Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Strongly Advised £230,000</p>
<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, 24ft Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom With Bath & Shower, Separate W.C. Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage, Viewing Advised! £175,000</p>	<p>THE HAYES</p> <p>ALLENS CLOSE, WILLENHALL Two Bed Detached Bungalow, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Driveway & Two Garages, Front & Rear Gardens, Cul-De-Sac Location, Must View! £175,000</p>	<p>FALLINGS PARK</p> <p>CANNOCK ROAD, W'TON Three Bedroom Detached, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Guest W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden £145,000</p>	<p>COALPOOL</p> <p>ALDERLEY CRESCENT, WALSALL Modern Two Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Ample Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Ideal F.T.B or B.T.L. £110,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>FISHER STREET, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, 19ft Kitchen, First Floor Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Private Rear Garden, Uniquely Adapted Living Accommodation, Viewing Strongly Advised! £100,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom End Terrace, Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Rear Yard, Recently Modernised, Ideal F.T.B - Viewing Advised! £97,500</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Victorian Semi, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Rear Garden, Tenanted At £550 PCM, Viewing Advised £95,000</p>	<p>WILLENHALL</p> <p>VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL Two Bed Mid Terrace, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Loft Room, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden, Great F.T.B Or B.T.L. £90,000</p>
<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED MILL LANE, WILLENHALL Extended Seven Bed Detached, Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Sitting Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility, W.C., Family Bathroom & Shower Room, UPVC, D/G, ORP, Generous Rear Garden. £340,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED HIGHMOOR CL, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Detached, Having Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, Dining Room, Conservatory, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, D/G, C/H, Garage & Driveway £260,000 O.I.E.O</p>	<p>SHORT HEATH</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED WOOD LANE, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Detached, 23ft Lounge/Diner, Separate Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Study/Office, Ground Floor W.C., Four Double Bedrooms, Modern Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Driveway Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden £260,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED REDWOOD WAY, WILLENHALL Extended Four Bed Semi, Spacious Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Enclosed Rear Garden, Viewing Strongly Advised £163,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED INGLEDEU CLOSE, WALSALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen With Fitted Appliances, Modern Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Extensive Off Road Parking, Detached Garage, Rear Garden, No Upward Chain £163,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED OVERDALE DRIVE, WILLENHALL Three Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Shower Room, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Must View! £150,000</p>	<p>BENTLEY</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED YORK AVENUE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Viewing Advised £150,000</p>	<p>COPPICE FARM</p> <p>SOLD SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED KINGTON CLOSE, WILLENHALL Two Bedroom Semi Detached, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking, Popular Cul-De-Sac Location £140,000</p>

Willenhall 01902 606595

www.prestige-estatesuk.com





Four-bedroomed home in a top area

WALSALL
£445,000

This superbly appointed four-bedroomed detached house located in this highly regarded residential area in Park Road, Walsall, is ideally placed for commuting.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £445,000. With gas central heating and double glazing, it has an entrance porch, a reception hall with a guest WC off, a through lounge, separate dining room, a rear conservatory, fitted kitchen, laundry room, four bedrooms, a bathroom with a separate WC, gardens, driveway and a workshop.

Call 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk



Spacious link detached home in a prime location

WILLENHALL
£187,000

<<<

This spacious extended link detached property in a prime location in Farbrook Way, Summer Hayes, Willenhall, is for sale through Skitts at £187,000.

It has two reception rooms, a fitted kitchen, impressive large conservatory, downstairs WC, inner hall, three bedrooms, a shower room, garage, driveway, gardens, gas central heating and double glazing.

In more detail there is a Tarmacadam driveway to the fore with a lawned garden, the dining room has a bow window to the front, the lounge has sliding patio doors to the conservatory and a fireplace with a gas fire and storage cupboard. The kitchen has a gas oven and hob and a door to the garage. Call 01902 631151 or visit www.skitts.net



Improved and extended six-bed detached home

This unique, much improved and extended six-bedroomed detached family home in Glen Close, Walsall, lies in a sought after cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Redstones at £399,995.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has a reception hall, an extended lounge, a sitting room, an extended L-shaped kitchen/diner, a guest WC, ground floor bedroom with an en-suite, five first floor bedrooms (master with en-suite including a double spa bath), a family shower room, front and rear gardens and off-road parking for several vehicles.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs and the guest cloakroom/

WALSALL
£399,995

WC with a heated towel rail off. The extended lounge has a bow window to the front and a door to the sitting room, which in turn has a door to the rear garden.

Being L-shaped, the extended kitchen/diner has a door to the garden, matching wall, base and drawer units, roll top work surfaces, a cooker point with extractor hood over, sink and drainer unit, plumbing and space for appliances, tiled surrounds and a door to the ground floor bedroom.

Upstairs the landing has loft access. Bedroom one lies to the front and has an en-suite bathroom with a twin spa bath, low level WC, wash hand basin in a vanity unit and tiled surrounds.

Bedrooms two and three have wardrobes. Bedrooms four and six and the family shower room are also on the first floor.

Ground floor bedroom five has a bay window to the front, a wardrobe and a door to its en-suite shower room. Outside, to the front, there is a driveway providing off-road parking for several vehicles, a lawned garden and a gate to the rear.

Call Redstones on 01922 235350 or visit www.redstones.co.uk

PROPERTY

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ŠKODA YETI



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TOWARDS YOUR FINANCE DEPOSIT ^

3 YEARS

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Available on a Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s and over. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Excludes ŠKODA Citigo S trim, ŠKODA Octavia SE Business and SE Technology trims. *Offer includes ŠKODA Yeti SE and SE L only. Offer excludes ŠKODA Yeti SE Drive and SE L Drive models, SE Business and SE Technology trims. Offer available when ordered by 3 April 2017 from participating retailers. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Models shown are: ŠKODA Citigo Colour Edition 1.0 MPI 5dr 60PS in Candy White at £10,620 OTR, ŠKODA Fabia Hatch Colour Edition 1.0 MPI 75PS at £13,915 OTR with optional front fog lights at £170, ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor SE 2.0 TDI CR DPF 110PS at £20,505 with optional Quartz Grey metallic paint at £555 and ŠKODA Octavia Hatch SE Sport 1.4 TSI 150PS at £20,415 OTR with optional Race Blue metallic paint at £555. Models shown may vary from UK specification. Accurate at time of publication. Freeport ŠKODA Financial Services. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. †The extra part exchange allowance of £500 must be discussed whilst still on the premises on the initial day of order, with a member of the Autosales ŠKODA sales team. Offer is only available on current ŠKODA Octavia models. Additional £500 can only be used on top of part exchange price offered by Autosales Group, which is subject to vehicle inspection. Only one additional discount is available per transaction and not available in conjunction with any other offer. No cash alternative. Offer only valid on new vehicles sold and registered between 2 February 2017 and 31 March 2017. Subject to availability. Retail customers only. Offers available on stock vehicles only. Colours subject to availability.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 31.0 (9.1) to 72.4 (3.9); Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2), Combined 38.2 (7.4) to 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range in mpg are 170 to 90 g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



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12 years experience. SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED. Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
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ROOFING
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"We are very happy with our Classified Contract within the Express & Star and the enquiries our adverts bring in."

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Bill - TV Link

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
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NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midlands News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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Black Country Homes

"Woodsfield Carpentry & Gates are really pleased with their classified contract advertising response."
John - Woodsfield Carpentry & Gates

"I am extremely happy with the Service get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Pines & Pines

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Brought to you by Express & Star

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

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Good quality accommodation at affordable rents, **ALL INCLUSIVE RENTS AVAILABLE.**

DSS 35+ welcome. Proof of benefit income required! Flexible deposit plan payment scheme.

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You agree the price, we buy the house.
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"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes

For great business results call
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Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**

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Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049

Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

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Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit...
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ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
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Any property Any area
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overseas property

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Four bed Villa.
Sleeps 11, kitchen, lounge and dining area, 3 bathrooms.
Fully furnished.
Large swimming pool.
Garage including car and private gated.
Plot in excess of 2000sqm.
Offers around £190,000 ono.
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7

Jobs

motor trade

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Driving licence required. Fully competent in servicing and repairing of vehicles all makes.
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Motoring

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisers must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

9

Local Information

MARGARET JOYCE DAVIDSON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 63 Skip Lane Walsall West Midlands WS3 3LP, who died on 22/10/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 05/05/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ENOCH EVANS LLP
St Paul's Chambers 6-9 Hatherton Road Walsall WS1 1XS

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cars over £1500

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE

White. 3 Door. 2012. Excellent Condition. MoT Sept 2017. 27,000 miles. Lady Owner. Air Con, Front Fog Lights, Half leather seats.

£4,495

07846 979087.

FORD FIESTA 58 reg. 57k, red. 7 months MoT, £20 tax, diesel, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, £3,750 ono. 07758 608398.

HYUNDAI COUPE

2004. Red. 10 months MoT. 66k. New clutch kit fitted. CD/Radio. E/SR. E/W. New Bosch wiper blades/brake pads fitted. Good tyres. Well looked after car. Reliable. Genuine callers only.

£1,700 ono.

01543 469045/07523 732092.

cars under £1500

FORD KA

2008, 58 reg, 59,000 miles, met black, cream leather interior, MoT July 2017, lady owner, e/w, pas, c/l, CD player, vcar, very clean and tidy, drives well.

£795 ono.

07946 835467.

public & legal notices

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 7 TO 10) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Highways England Company Limited intends to make an Order on the M6 Motorway in the Metropolitan Boroughs of Sandwell and Walsall, to allow message sign renewal works to be carried out.

The effect of the order will be to close –

(a) the northbound carriageway of the M6 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 7, to its junction with the entry slip road at Junction 10;

(b) the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 7;

(c) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 9; and

(d) the link road leading from the northbound carriageway of the M5, to the northbound carriageway of the M6 at Junction 8.

The work will be carried out over two nights between 22:00 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 13th March 2017. The Order will come into force on 10th March 2017.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade, ambulance, winter maintenance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

A diversion route via the A34 and the A4148 will be signed.

For further information please contact Paul Siddall on 0300 470 3538.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

full time - general

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SCHOOL STAFF INSTRUCTOR FOR COMBINED CADET FORCE (CCF) RAF UNIT

Barr Beacon School
To help develop our Combined Cadet Force RAF contingent.

Full Time - Good rate of pay
ARMED FORCES EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Visit www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Closing date: 27th February 2017
Interview Date: 13th March 2017
Start date: 24th April 2017

cars over £1500

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE

White. 3 Door. 2012. Excellent Condition. MoT Sept 2017. 27,000 miles. Lady Owner. Air Con, Front Fog Lights, Half leather seats.

£4,495

07846 979087.

FORD FIESTA 58 reg. 57k, red. 7 months MoT, £20 tax, diesel, front and rear parking sensors, privacy glass, £3,750 ono. 07758 608398.

HYUNDAI COUPE

2004. Red. 10 months MoT. 66k. New clutch kit fitted. CD/Radio. E/SR. E/W. New Bosch wiper blades/brake pads fitted. Good tyres. Well looked after car. Reliable. Genuine callers only.

£1,700 ono.

01543 469045/07523 732092.

cars under £1500

ROVER 25 IMPRESSION

2002, 5-dr, green, 1.4cc, 55,000 miles, service history, 12 months MoT, PAS, remote central locking, electric windows, CD player, drives like new, stunning condition, 60mpg.

£480.

07722 921378.

public & legal notices

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984-SECTION 14(1)(A) THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 7 TO 10) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2017

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Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Barr Beacon School
We are seeking Learning Support Assistants
37 hours per week

£14,000 Full Time £11,676 Term Time only.
Applications close 24th February

Apply online at www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk
For more info contact: LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

cars over £1500

HYUNDAI COUPE

2004. Red. 10 months MoT. 66k. New clutch kit fitted. CD/Radio. E/SR. E/W. New Bosch wiper blades/brake pads fitted. Good tyres. Well looked after car. Reliable. Genuine callers only.

£1,700 ono.

01543 469045/07523 732092.

cars under £1500

ROVER 25 IMPRESSION

2002, 5-dr, green, 1.4cc, 55,000 miles, service history, 12 months MoT, PAS, remote central locking, electric windows, CD player, drives like new, stunning condition, 60mpg.

£480.

07722 921378.

Walsall Council, Planning, Engineering and Transportation

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

***16/1888 D. P. M. LTD FOR: REDEVELOPMENT OF REDUNDANT EQUESTRIAN CENTRE (D2) TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 5 DWELLINGS USE C3. AT: LAND REAR OF 127, LONGWOOD ROAD, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL.**

17/0137 Markets Team FOR: TEMPORARY RETENTION OF CHANGE OF USE FOR OPEN STORAGE AND PLACEMENT OF CONTAINERS FOR USE BY MARKET TRADERS. AT: CORNER OF NEWPORT STREET AND LOWER HALL LANE, WALSALL.

16/1894 Mr & Mrs Lee Fox FOR: CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT. SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION. AT: 2, COMMONSIDE, PELSALL, WALSALL, WS3 4QL

The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

CATERING ASSISTANT

Barr Beacon School
Barr Beacon School is seeking to appoint a dynamic, friendly catering assistant to support our kitchen over busy lunch services

Term Time Only, Monday-Friday
Part Time (hours negotiable)

Visit www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Closing date 27th February 2017

Barr Beacon School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

cars over £1500

HYUNDAI COUPE

2004. Red. 10 months MoT. 66k. New clutch kit fitted. CD/Radio. E/SR. E/W. New Bosch wiper blades/brake pads fitted. Good tyres. Well looked after car. Reliable. Genuine callers only.

£1,700 ono.

01543 469045/07523 732092.

cars under £1500

ROVER 25 IMPRESSION

2002, 5-dr, green, 1.4cc, 55,000 miles, service history, 12 months MoT, PAS, remote central locking, electric windows, CD player, drives like new, stunning condition, 60mpg.

£480.

07722 921378.

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ASSISTANT CHEF

Bloxwich Academy
Bloxwich Academy is seeking to appoint a skilled dynamic Assistant Chef to work 37 hours per week in a busy, demanding but rewarding role.

Term Time only, Monday-Friday
Salary - £16,057

Visit www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk to download details and an application form and send it to LDraycott@barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Closing date: 27th February 2017

Bloxwich Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance.

cars over £1500

HYUNDAI COUPE

2004. Red. 10 months MoT. 66k. New clutch kit fitted. CD/Radio. E/SR. E/W. New Bosch wiper blades/brake pads fitted. Good tyres. Well looked after car. Reliable. Genuine callers only.

£1,700 ono.

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10

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cars over £1500

HYUNDAI COUPE

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£1,700 ono.

01543 469045/07523 732092.

BUY LOCAL

SELL LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Buy and sell with ClassifiedsAds



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ClassifiedAds website

www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2. Call our Classified sales team on **01902 317 878**

3. Self Serve -
Create your own advert
in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Revving up for a full season of race thrills

WITH testing in full swing and motorbikes being fine tuned before the season opener, it's time to have a look at our region's top club racers.

From the ultra-competitive Thundersport GB, to endurance racing, Darley Moor championships and the road racing scene, there's plenty to keep fans occupied over the spring and summer months, right into autumn.

Pete Wright, aged 51, from Tividale, and team-mate Martyn Silvert, 42, from Blackheath, have just returned from testing in Spain.

The Black Country pair, who compete under the double22-two racing banner, will be back in the No Limit Racing Endurance Cup this year, but will move up to 600cc after dominating the clubman class during their debut season in 2016.

Lloyd Shelley, 33, from Burntwood, will be returning to the Darley Moor this year – but his focus will be a first stint in the Thundersport GB Elite Class series on his Triumph 675.

Neil Lloyd, 46, from Wednesbury, will be back on board his Honda RVF400 this year. After finishing runner-up in two classes at the Darley Moor Club Championships in 2016 he will return to the series – but his main focus will be his first shot at road racing.

Goal-line technology 'would be welcome'

STAFFORDSHIRE'S former Premier League referee Alan Wiley has welcomed the news that goal-line technology may be introduced in the Championship from next season.

The 56-year-old, from Burntwood, refereed in England's top flight from 1999-2010 and is pleased that EFL bosses have agreed – in principle – that the second tier shall follow the lead set by the Premier League.

"It's excellent news," said Wiley about the possibility of the Hawk-eye system being introduced in the Championship. Anything that helps make the right decision. It's been very positive in the top division and it'll work in the Championship.

"It's a proven system. Once a decision is made – it's goal or no goal – there's no questioning. Teams work all week to score goals and stop conceding goals so we need something proving it one way or the other."

As to whether the law could be spread to Leagues One and Two, he added: "It would be good if we could but I think it's ultimately down to costs."

Video assistance for officials has also been muted, and while Wiley believes help would be beneficial – he doesn't want the game to lose the human element.

Rutter set to power back on electric bike

MICHAEL RUTTER could be back competing in all seven Isle of Man TT races after revealing plans to test out a new electric bike in America.

The Bridgnorth star has also joined former team-mate Stephen Thompson, who is now running his own Thompson Plastering outfit after recovering from an horrific injury, to race on the island.

Thompson was rushed to hospital after a three-bike smash at the North West 200, in Northern Ireland, in 2015 while racing for the Bathams team.

He eventually lost part of his arm the following year but having felt the pull of the racing scene return, he is now ready to get back in the business of motorbikes – something Rutter was more than happy to help out with.

"Steve had a bad crash and lost his arm. He had a few problems after the crash but he really missed being involved with racing," he said. "He wanted to set up his own team and ours will be helping out."

"He'll be working with us but will have his own awning and his own team. "I'll be riding a Yamaha R6 600cc under his banner for the two supersport races."

Rutter will also be back competing in the Lightweight TT on a bike that has already brought him success.



Ron Flowers – one of the greatest

Ron's at the head of the Flowers dynasty

HE'S one of the greatest players in the history of Wolverhampton Wanderers. And now Ron Flowers is hoping to watch his grandson follow in his illustrious footsteps after the 20-year-old signed a professional contract with Burnley.

A commanding centre-half, Harry Flowers had been turning out for Staffordshire side Brocton earlier this season. But after being spotted by a Clarets scout, he was offered, and accepted, a pro deal at the Lancashire club.

And the youngster knows his grandfather is the

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joseph Masi

His form in gold and black also allowed him to shine on the international stage

perfect role model if he ever needs advice. Born in Edlington, a mining village in South Yorkshire, Ron also had to move away to achieve his footballing ambitions.

He was initially spotted as a teenager by Doncaster Rovers before coming to the attention of Wolves scouts.

But his move to the West Midlands had to wait, with his father Jack insisting he had to finish an apprenticeship with train firm LNER Locomotive before he left Yorkshire.

Rescue

Fortunately, Wolves manager Stan Cullis came to the rescue. He spoke to Jack and offered his son maximum wages for a 17-year-old, meaning that Ron would be earning more a week than his dad did. And reluctantly Jack gave in.

But more disruption was just around the corner. The following year, Ron was called up for National Service.

Applying to the RAF, he completed his initial training at Hednesford followed by a posting to Cosford.

It was during the six weeks of training that Ron made his first-team debut for Wolves against Blackpool.

And while the Molineux men lost, Ron marked the occasion with a goal.

A terrific athlete and fine passer of the ball, Flowers went on to establish himself in the Wolves side for the next 15 years, playing at either wing-half or centre-half.

And it was his partnership with Peter Broadbent that formed the bedrock of the Wolves teams that

won the League Championship in 1954, 1958 and 1959, as well as the FA Cup in 1960.

In total, Flowers made 512 appearances for the club between 1952 and 1967, scoring 37 goals – putting him sixth in the club's all-time list of appearance makers.

His form in gold and black also allowed him to shine on the international stage.

In 49 appearances for England, Flowers scored 10 goals and played in the 1962 World Cup. He was also part of Sir Alf Ramsey's squad that famously won the competition in 1966.

Flowers didn't kick a ball in anger during that tournament. But there is no doubt he still played his part.

Flowers suspected then, as he still does now, that he was included in Alf Ramsey's 22-man squad for the finals for a specific reason.

The oldest member of the group, he was there to set an example.

Standby

"I was there to do a job," he said in an exclusive interview with our sister daily the Express & Star. "As far as I had been concerned, my England career was finished."

"I hadn't been expecting the call."

Flowers also came a whisker away from playing in the biggest game in English football. Before the final in 1966, Jack Charlton had told Ramsey he was struggling with a cold. And that prompted the boss to put Flowers on stand-by.

"The message was, be ready," explains Flowers.

"It was not, as you might expect however, the cause of any nerves, or indeed a restless night. It didn't make any difference to my thinking."

"I knew whatever he might have come down with, he would play."

"Do you really think Jack Charlton was going to miss out on the World Cup final because of a cold? It would have needed to have been one heck of a cold."

After retiring from professional football Ron opened his shop Ron Flowers Sports in Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

Today it is run by his son, and Harry's dad, Glenn.



Ron Flowers playing for England in 1959. He made 49 appearances for England



Wolves' midfielder Jack Price shakes hands with Ron Flowers



Wolves legend Ron Flowers pictured in his Molineux glory days



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Lions on the prowl to end home record

Walsall 9 Stourbridge Lions 30
WALSALL'S current unbeaten home record was shattered by the current league leaders.

The Worcestershire team produced some good rugby as they secured a bonus point win at Delves Road. The hosts had to make late changes with the withdrawal of Pete Fitzgerald and John Josh Williams. They suffered further injuries during the game as Matthew Wood, Alex Woodward and Rob Angell were all forced to leave the field.

Although the hosts established an early lead with a Roger Weston penalty, the visitors soon controlled the game.

They dominated the lineouts and were always keen to run and support each other at every opportunity.

A spilled ball led to Stour's first try as they kept possession until hooker Cass Brookes went over. Owen Williams added the conversion and also a penalty five minutes later. Richard Clarke made a good carry before Walsall were awarded the next penalty which Weston put over with an excellent 45m kick.

As the game entered the second quarter, Walsall's captain was forced to leave the field after a high tackle. This resulted in more reorganisation for the Delves Road team and for the second successive week, players were forced to play in unaccustomed positions.

Williams added a touchdown and a penalty before the hosts got some more points on the board with a Weston penalty after a deliberate knock-on.

But it was the league leaders that secured the final scores as Williams scored another try. The conversion gave the full back a personal tally of 20 points and his team a maximum five league points.

The third XV lost 48-17 to Gnosall. On Sunday, the Colts beat Worcester by 51 points to 10.

Keeper star of show as Wood battle to first point of year

Walsall Wood 1 Coventry Utd 1
WOOD gained their first point in 2017 with a battling draw against a Coventry United side that were seventh in the table at the start of play.

Well worth their 1-0 interval lead they withstood a second half battering by the visitors, keeper Adam Jenkins turning in a five-star performance to earn a point.

Wood went ahead on 37 minutes; Rikki Bains played the ball up to Drew Aiton right of centre and he ran for goal before playing the ball left to Joey Butlin. He raced into the left of the box and calmly slotted the ball past the advancing keeper.

It was all-square on 52 minutes as a right wing press ended with Kevin Thornton's near post cross headed home by Lewis Ison.

But a deserved point at last for Wood, who really had to dig deep in the second half as the league newcomers really gave them a working over.

They face Quorn away on Saturday as they look to build on this battling performance and start to build a settled line up.

Khalsa out of Vase with a whimper

Coleshill Town 2 Sporting Khalsa 0

SPORTING Khalsa's FA Vase dream ended in disappointment, crashing out to fellow Midland Football League side Colehill with barely a whimper.

Two first half goals – by Dean Rathbone and a Brad Lawley own goal – ultimately decided the game, although in truth the home side were excellent value for their victory.

Khalsa came out of the blocks the faster, a Craig Bannister effort was blazed over in the first minute and Tim Jackson's probing crosses were causing mayhem in the box. But Colehill's coun-

Football

ter attacking play is perfectly suited to their 3G surface and on eight minutes they went ahead, a fine surge down the left and three crisp passes giving Rathbone the opportunity which he took in style.

Khalsa took time to settle after the setback and a key turning point came in the 40th minute, when Yusifu Ceessay's goal was controversially disallowed for offside.

The decision left an even more bitter taste when two minutes later Khalsa found themselves

two down when a superb run and cross by Reece Leek down the right ended with Lawley turning the ball past his own keeper Tom Turner.

Ceessay forced a good save from Paul Hathaway in the Colehill goal seven minutes into the second half.

Hathaway was unable to cleanly take a corner from Jackson but both Tes Robinson and substitute Simeon Townsend were unable to pounce quickly enough to convert.

Probably Khalsa's best chance came on 68 minutes, Ceessay brilliantly wrong-footing the defence and creating a clear shooting opportunity, only to blaze the effort high over the bar.

WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPT FOR OZ

Walsall 2 Peterborough 0

IT'S the script that, before kick-off, everyone had been hoping for.

Erhun Oztumer, nicknamed Wizard of Oz by Walsall fans since his summer move from Peterborough, would pop up with a dramatic late winner to sink his former club.

It may have been an ending written in the stars, writes Joe Masi.

But nobody could predict the drama that unfolded in the final 10 minutes of this pulsating League One clash.

For 80 minutes, Walsall and Posh went blow for blow – with both teams creating good chances to claim all three points in an end-to-end encounter. But there had been something of an edge to Grant McCann's side all afternoon – a few little signs to suggest they were struggling to cope with the pressure of the promotion race.

It was first seen when keeper Luke McGee and Dominic Ball both went to clear a Jason McCarthy cross.

Delivery

The delivery looked to be routine for the glovesman. But when Ball hacked it clear, McGee incredibly started fighting with his team-mate.

Posh were struggling to keep their composure and they were rocked in the 80th minute when Gwion Edwards was stretchered off with a nasty-looking injury.

Edwards' injury had led to seven minutes of stoppage time. And it was early in added on time the Saddlers opened the scoring in controversial circumstances.

Oztumer whipped in a dangerous corner that McGee went to claim. But under pressure from Amadou Bakayoko, the keeper somehow fumbled the ball into his own net.

It was a goal that most referees would have disallowed. But Mark Haywood got the call spot on. Of course, Posh's players didn't think so and their overzealous protests lead to skipper Chris Forrester being sent off.

The visitors threw men forward to get back into the game, but Walsall hit them on the break with Kieron Morris grabbing a second.



Kieron Morris seals the match for the Saddlers in the dying seconds

Pics setback at hands of lowly Athletic

Frickley 1 Rushall Olympic 0

RUSHALL Olympic's poor form in the Evo-Stik Premier continued with a 1-0 setback at lowly Frickley Athletic despite being on top for long periods.

The first chance of the game fell to the Pics when a strong challenge on Luke Bottomer led to a free-kick which Isaac

Cooper delivered to the head of Henry Eze, who was inches wide with 10 minutes on the clock.

As Rushall started to look the most likely side, they fell behind on 17 minutes when Adam Priestley was alert to seize upon a loose pass before rounding the keeper and firing home.

It was the Pics asking all

the questions in the second half. Jazz Luckie had an effort deflected wide, a powerful Cooper free-kick was blocked by the home side and, right at the death, Luckie took the ball around the keeper on the edge of the area and fired goalwards, only for Macaulay Parkinson to deflect the ball over.

Clarke now unbeaten in 15 as a pro

LENNOX Clarke made it 15 professional victories as he defeated the resilient Bartlomiej Gafka in his toughest test to date at the Banks's Stadium.

The unbeaten Halesowen prospect did enough to take all eight rounds receiving an 80-72 score from the judges. The 25-year-old was sharp throughout but his Polish opponent gave a warning he would be no push over in the first as he caught Clarke with a heavy combination.

The super middleweight was battling for the centre of the ring and trying to tie Gafka up on the ropes but the 28-year-old powered his way out of trouble and kept recapturing the centre spot. As the fight reached the halfway stage Gafka appeared to be growing into the contest but it was Clarke who was still doing the most work without hurting his opponent.

The sixth and seventh round reduced Gafka's face to a bloody mess. Despite the damage the only time the travelling fighter was on the canvas was when he slipped in the seventh. It was another close round in the eighth but Clarke did enough to earn a clean sweep and move a step closer to the title shot he is searching for.

West Bromwich's Joshua Stokes put on a masterclass in body punching as he got off to the perfect start in his professional career. The debutant looked powerful as he punished Mitch Mitchell with crunching hooks, taking a 40-36 victory.

Former kickboxing World Champion Brad Foster, from Lichfield, earned the only stoppage of the night, needing just two and a half minutes of the first round to finish Leonard Rafael and record his sixth professional win.

In the opening fight of the night Connor Parker of Swadlincote defeated Liam Richards in a one-sided contest to earn his second professional win.

Swann leaves role as Darlaston boss

DARLASTON Town (1874) boss Mark Swann has stepped down due to increased work and personal commitments.

Swann had been in charge of the West Midlands Regional League Division One side for nearly three seasons, taking over on the club's reformation, leading them to promotion and a fifth-placed top level finish.

Goalkeeping coach Scott Bamford has been appointed until the end of the season. Club chairman Neil Chambers said: "I am really disappointed that Swann has decided to step down. He has been absolutely magnificent."

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford, Thursday, February 23, 2017

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